

iPads in Special Education

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The resources for this presentation are located on our Apple and Apps Related resources page at www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/apple/. We hope you find this page useful!

The presentation that goes with this handout is at www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/workshops/ipads-in-special-education-presentation-october-2011.

Any text which is blue and underlined can be clicked on to take you directly to the link I refer to.

iPad basics

Please see the entry on [iPad Basics](#) on our blog. Of particular interest is the [Macworld iPad2 Starter Guide](#).

Also, make sure you check out [Apple's App License Agreement](#) or there is great summary of this from [Assistiveware](#).

It is also really worth checking out the wealth of resources on the [iPads for Learning site](#). These include app reviews, stories around using iPads in a range of schools and lots of nuts and bolts of rolling out iPads in schools and a wealth of other information.

(Please see the end of this handout for further links and resources in this area)

Teaching and Learning – content

The iPad is a fabulous teaching tool. Of course, we always need to keep good teaching practice in mind when using it. We always need to consider the student, the environment and the task when picking the best tool for each situation. Think about using the [SETT framework](#) or another similar model when making these decisions. You might also want to consider using an [evaluation rubric](#) within your school for sorting and sharing information about apps.

And with around 750 new apps being submitted to Apple every day there is a lot of change in this area. Many of the resources listed in this handout keep track of specific areas of apps – helping you find out when new relevant apps are released. (See <http://148apps.biz/app-store-metrics/> for App Store figures and numbers)

iPad in Literacy Learning and Support

The iPad can be used to support both reading and writing goals within literacy. Consider using Digital Storybook apps to support early readers – apps such as [Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy](#) (from [Kiwa Media](#)), [Blue Hat, Green Hat](#) (from [Loud Crow](#)) or [Far to the North](#) HD (from [PicPocket Books](#)). Books which have word-by-word highlighting can be helpful for emergent readers and writers. I have had enormous success with some students who have been really motivated by the word-by-word highlighting – but we need to make sure that we don't continue to use word-by-word highlighting once students start to develop their literacy skills as we need to make sure that students develop appropriate eye movements (and we don't move our eyes in a straight line from left to right as we become competent readers).

Use books like "[When You Grow Up](#)" from [Stepworks](#) to help students develop language and vocabulary concepts. And check out [Digital Storytime](#) for digital storybook app reviews and the [Daily Deal](#) Page.

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Apple's own eBook reader, [iBooks](#), is also a growing source for eBooks. The Australian store now has a much greater range, and children's picture books are starting to appear in greater numbers. Check out iBooks such as "[Baby Wombat's Week](#)". Enhanced iBooks are also available (although small in number) and contain audio to go with the book. "[Bach's Farm Animals](#)" is a free enhanced eBook that you can use to check out this format. You can also just search for enhanced books in the iBookstore to see the range.

In addition, you can turn your own PPT or Word books and photo stories into PDFs or ePubs and install them in the iBookstore. As promised, I will develop a step-by-step handout on how to do this and add it to our resources.

And [Read2Go](#) now offers an accessible eBook reader for readers with learning difficulties. I've done a review of this online at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/web-links/read2go-app-ready-set-read-for-students-with-learning-difficulties/>. Students also need to become members of Bookshare to use this app.

And don't forget that [TarHeel Reader](#) is now compatible with the iPad too. I've also recently written a blog entry on TarHeel Reader and explained some of the features at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/web-links/tarheel-reader-a-fabulous-literacy-resource-for-all/>.

Apps used in this section:

[Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy](#)
[Blue Hat, Green Hat](#)
[Far to the North HD](#)

[When You Grow Up](#)
[iBooks](#)
[Read2Go](#)

There are a range of writing tools (and apps which can be used as writing tools) on the iTunes store. Check out Greg O'Connor's list of [Apps for Literacy Support](#) for a list of his favourite tools in this area.

[SpeakIt!](#) Is one of my favourite apps for using the iPad as a pencil for developing writers. SpeakIt! Lets them write and hear as they write each sentence. The text can then be saved for future editing. [Pages](#) is a word processing app from Apple. [Typ-O HD](#) is another favourite writing app. Typ-O HD has word prediction, speech support for both the writing and the word prediction and users can email the writing to themselves for future editing or to save.

[Notability](#) is a helpful app for students in secondary and tertiary study. It lets the user make a recording at the same time as they are taking notes. They can also supplement the notes with photos and other images. I wish I had had this app when I was studying. [Dragon Dictation](#) is an app designed to convert your speech into text. An internet connection is required at all times for this app to work – and success is a little varied – but this can be a great tool.

The iPad can also be used to help students work on literacy goals in other areas too. For example, [Word Wall HD](#) can be used to help develop phonological awareness through onset rime (see <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/onset-rime-word-families> for more information on this).

Apps used in this section:

[SpeakIt!](#)
[Pages](#)
[Typ-O HD](#)
[Notability](#)
[Say Text](#)
[Dragon Dictation](#)

[WordWall HD](#)
[ABC Magic](#)
[First Words Deluxe](#)
[Magnetic Letters](#)
[Word Magic](#)

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Sources for Quality App Reviews

There are a range of sites which offer reviews of apps. Particularly, look for sites where apps are reviewed by teachers or special ed teachers, although [Apps 4 Children with Special Needs](#) does offer videos of apps which can be very helpful.

Please see the end of this handout for my suggestions and favourites.

And just recently, Jeremy Brown has been posting regular lists of free or price reduced apps on his blog (written with Patrick Black) at www.teachingall.blogspot.com. He doesn't review these apps – but you can download them and review them yourself!

Tips and Tricks

Make sure that you become aware of the Settings within the iPad that can be useful. Look at restrictions – you can turn off deleting apps and restrict access to some other apps and features.

Also look at the settings within apps. Many special education specific apps have options to change the responsiveness of the touch screen which can help some students.

Working through the MacWorld iPad 2 Starter Guide will also give you some other helpful tips and tricks.

(Please see the end of this handout for further links and resources in this area)

Accessibility and Access

Go to Settings -> General -> Accessibility to see the range of Accessibility Options built into the iPad.

Look at [Apple's Accessibility](#) documentation for the iPad and iPad 2. Also check [Luis Perez's YouTube Channel](#) which has some great videos in this area and [David Woodbridge's MP3s on VoiceOver](#) on the Vision Australia website.

Currently, alternative access to the iPad is very limited. Many of the mouse alternatives, such as the Tracker Pro, are not compatible with the iPad. There are a small number of joysticks available for the iPad – but these only work with apps, such as [Pac-Man](#), which include an onscreen joystick. Currently this seems to be limited to game apps.

There are YouTube videos showing other alternative input apps which are currently being worked on. Some of these have been released e.g. [Breath Bird](#) – a Twitter input app which allows the user to type using their breath. As with all alternative access options for the iPad, the access method only works within the app itself.

Currently there are two switch interfaces for the iPad. The [SwitchBox](#) (from Therapy Box – which is identical to the RJ Cooper switch interface) and the [Blue2](#) (from AbleNet). [RadSounds](#) is a cause and effect app which works with an external switch. The majority of switch operated apps are AAC apps e.g. [TapSpeak Choice](#), a symbol based AAC app with visual and auditory scanning that works with both the different interfaces. [Predictable](#) is a text based AAC app that works with the SwitchBox interface. Both of these apps also have the option of using the screen as the switch.

There are a number of styli also available for the iPad. A T-bar stylus and a mouthstick is available from <http://www.etsy.com/shop/shapedad>. Styli compatible with the iPad have to be compatible with a [capacitive](#) screen.

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Bluetooth keyboards can be used with the iPad and there are some cases available with an inbuilt Bluetooth keyboard e.g. [Logitech keyboard case](#). In addition, many wired keyboards can be used with the help of the [Apple iPad camera connection kit](#).

Keyguards for specific apps can also be purchased. [Lasered Pics](#) make a range of keyguards in both Perspex and Acrylic. [Yooralla Glenroy](#) also make Perspex keyguards.

The other information I covered in this area is included in my recent blog "[Access Options and Accessories for iPads...Gathering Strength as They Grow](#)".

Apps used in this section:

[Pac-Man](#)

[Breath Bird](#)

[RadSounds](#)

[TapSpeak Choice](#)

[Predictable](#)

(Please see the end of this handout for further links and resources in this area)

Accessories

The iPad is a very cool piece of technology – but it isn't necessarily durable or moisture proof. Accessories can provide extra protection in these areas.

The [Gumdrop Drop Series](#) cases and the [Otterbox Defender](#) are two examples of protective cases. Both make the iPad much more durable in case of accidents but add quite a bit of weight. The [iAdapter](#) is a protective case with inbuilt speaker and a cover for the home button.

ZAGG make a full body clear protector called the [Invisible Shield](#) which may provide some moisture protection and Tunewear make a very waterproof case called [Waterwear](#) which is designed for sailors and which should protect the iPad from rain.

The [BubCap](#) is a sticker that goes over the home button and makes it harder to press – available in two strengths.

Some of the information I covered in this area is included in my recent blog "[Access Options and Accessories for iPads...Gathering Strength as They Grow](#)".

You can also look at the end of this handout for further links and resources in this area.

Apps for AAC

There are over 100 AAC apps now on the iTunes store. I keep a list of these (with reviews) at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac>

There are three main categories of AAC apps – apps with symbol based displays, apps with text-to-speech and symbol displays and apps with text-to-speech and a large variation in the quality of these apps.

As well as apps that can be used directly for communication, there are also some apps which can support low/light tech AAC. [RIDBC Auslan Tutor](#) and [Baby Sign and Learn in Auslan](#) can both be used to practice signing. Pic Card Maker can be used to make picture cards.

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Apps used in this section:

[TapSpeak Sequence](#)

[TapSpeak Choice](#)

[TouchChatHD](#)

[Predictable](#)

[Verbally](#)

[Proloquo2Go](#)

[Scene&Heard](#)

[RIDBC Auslan Tutor](#)

[Baby Sign and Learn in Auslan](#)

Visual Support Apps

There are a large number of apps which can be used as Visual Supports – and not all of these are specifically designed for this area. There are talking photo apps designed for family holiday snaps which work well for building social stories or making visual sequences. There are also a range of specifically designed visual support apps, such as First Then. Obviously, for each student we need to consider whether these provide enough of a visual cue for each student as the visual support app will be minimized when other apps are being used.

Visual schedules: [First Then Visual Schedule](#), [Picture Scheduler](#)

Talking books and photo albums: [Pictello](#), [Click 'n Talk](#)

Rewards: [ChorePad HD](#), [Visual Grocery](#)

Visual Timers: [TimeTimer](#), [ASD Timer](#)

Other: [iDress for Weather](#)

For a round up of some of the highlights in Visual Support apps please see Charlene Cullen's blog post on this topic at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/tools-and-resources/visual-support-apps-for-ipodipad/>

Apps used in this section:

[First Then Visual Schedule](#)

[Pictello](#)

[Click 'n Talk](#)

[TimeTimer](#)

[iDress for Weather](#)

Other Apps

There are apps which can work on other skills such as fine motor skills, voice control or sensory apps, or on curriculum areas such as maths, art, music and language.

For example:

[Dexterity](#)

[Bubbles](#)

[Paint Sparkles Draw](#)

[Baby DJ](#)

[Clicky Sticky](#)

[Wheels on the Bus HD](#)

[Slide 2 Unlock](#)

[Jungle Coins](#)

[Toy Story](#)

[Whizzy Kids](#)

[What am I?](#)

[Math Bingo](#)

And don't forget – this is a static document. We will be constantly updating our web page at <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/apple/> with new links, resources, opinions, ideas and information.

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RESOURCES AND LINKS

iPad Basics

From Our Blog

[iPad Basics](#)

[iPads for Special Education](#) (Prezi that goes with this handout)

External Links

[Apple's own iPad Basics](#)

[Macworld iPad2 Starter Guide iPad](#)

[Quick Start Guide from iPadsforLearning](#)

[Apple's iPad2 manual](#)

[Apple's App License Agreement](#)

[Assistiveware's explanation of App licensing](#)

Teaching and Learning

From Our Blog

[All about Apps for Special Education](#)

[Educational Apps and Resources for the iPad and iPhone](#)

[QR Codes – What are they and how can I use them in my classroom](#)

External Links

[iPads in the Classroom](#)

[Getting Started: Classroom ideas for learning with the iPad from iPads for Learning](#)

[Why The iPad Should be used in Classrooms](#)

[iPads in Education](#)

[Teach with your iPad](#)

[Slide2Learn](#)

[Evaluation Rubric for Educational Apps](#)

[iPad support booklet for Special Education from iPads for Learning](#)

[iPad for Learning](#)

[Digital Storytelling with the iPad](#)

Sources for Quality App Reviews

From Our Blog

[AAC Apps list](#)

[Literacy Support Apps list](#)

[Visual Support Apps list](#)

[iPhone, iPad and iTouch apps for people who have low vision, and teachers of students who have a vision impairment \(Updated to include the iPad 2\)](#)

[What's Appropriate: Using iTunes to Find Gems for Your Students in the App Store](#)

External Links

[Broxterman's Bugle](#)

[Moms with Apps](#)

[Teachers with Apps](#)

[Apple's Apps for Teachers](#)

[Apple's Apps for Learning to Read](#)

[Apple's Special Education Apps](#)

[iPad in Schools](#)

[Therapy App 411](#)

iPads in Special Education

[SpedApps2](#)

[Teach with Your iPad](#)

[Inov8 Educational Consulting](#) and [There's a special App for that](#) from Inov8

[Ipodsibilities](#)

[Apps for Children with Special Needs](#)

[Special Needs Apps for Kids](#)

[iPhone, iPad and iPod touch Apps for \(Special\) Education by Eric Sailers](#)

[IEducation Apps Review](#)

Tips and Tricks

From our blog

[Access Options and Accessories for iPads.... Gathering Strength as They Grow <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/apps-and-mobile-learning/access-options-and-accessories-for-ipads-gathering-strength-as-they-grow>](#)

Links:

[50 Really useful iPad 2 tips and tricks](#)

Accessibility and Access

From Our Blog

[Access Options and Accessories for iPads.... Gathering Strength as They Grow](#)

[iPhone, iPad and iTouch apps for people who have low vision, and teachers of students who have a vision impairment \(Updated to include the iPad 2\)](#)

[Switch scanning on iPads? Yes...well...sort of!](#)

External Links

[Instructional MP3s from Vision Australia for using the iPad with VoiceOver](#)

[Apple iPad Accessibility](#)

[Videos on iOS Accessibility Features on Luis Perez's YouTube Channel](#)

[ATMac](#)

Accessories

From Our Blog

[Access Options and Accessories for iPads.... Gathering Strength as They Grow](#)

[iPhone and iPod accessories: iMainGoX and Pogo Sketch](#)

External Links:

[Bluetooth iPad keyboard case from ThinkGeek](#)

[Gumdrop Series cases](#)

[Geek SLP review of iPad stands](#)

[iAdapter iPad case](#)

[iBallz cases](#)

[iPad Blue2 Switch Interface](#)

[iPad Keyguards](#)

[iPad Satchel](#)

[TherapyBox switch interface](#)

[Otterbox Defender iPad cases](#)

[Shape Dad Styluses](#)

[ZAGG invisible shield](#)

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Opinion

From our Blog

[AAC Apps – Speaking APPropriately](#)

[iHelp for Autism – the story of a boy and an iPad](#)

External Links

[“Learning: Is there an App for that”](#)

Apple [iPad2 launch video](#) segment on iPads with children with autism

[iPads are not a miracle for Autism](#)

[Mobile Devices and Communication Apps and AAC RERC White Paper](#)

[Why the iPad should be in classrooms](#)

Favourite Sites and Resources

[iTeach in Special Ed on Facebook](#)

[iPads for Learning](#)

[Accessibility in Education Wiki](#) from Apple

[Teaching Learners with Multiple Special Needs](#)