

THE BEST IPAD APPS TO DEVELOP LITERACY SKILLS

COMPILED BY:

READINGROCKETS.ORG

<http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101/literacyapps/>



TOP PHONICS APPS



Interactive Alphabet

[*Interactive Alphabet*](#) offers alphabet matching for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Your child can hear words, letters and phonics sounds. This app also includes a "Baby Mode."

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 2



iSpy Phonics

Match phonic sounds with letters, through colorful illustrations, pictures and accurate pronunciation, while playing the age old game of I Spy.

\$1.99



ABC Expedition

[*ABC Expedition*](#) is an app designed to help children with their alphabet. However, this app not only helps kids with their alphabet; it also helps children learn various animals too.

\$2.99



ABC Song Piano

[*ABC Song Piano*](#) uses music to teach the alphabetic principle. This app can also tap into children's musical creativity; it is colorful and has piano keys that light up. Furthermore, this app introduces letters A-Z, objects, animal and instrument sounds.

\$1.99



Alphabytes

[*Alphabytes*](#) is an educational app that helps kids learn their letters, the sounds letters make, how to write both upper and lower case letters, and how to spell a few words. The game has four sections: Alphabet, Trace, Spell, and Play.

\$1.99



Simplex Spelling

[*Simplex Spelling Lite*](#) is designed to improve spelling and reading skills in a fun and interactive way by using "reverse phonics." Simplex Spelling Lite contains over 50 high frequency English words; it also enables students to build on each word, which goes beyond the sheer memorization of words.

FREE



Word Wizard

[*Word Wizard*](#) is the first educational app that utilizes natural sounding text-to-speech voices to help kids learn word building and spelling. Movable Alphabet help kids hear the text they wrote, as well as verify spelling using the built-in spell checker.

\$2.99



Electric Co. Wordball

[*The Electric Company Wordball*](#) incorporates video from the popular television show with a game to teach reading and spelling. The videos are appropriate for any age child learning to read. Kids can listen to some of their favorite music artist as they maneuver through the game.

FREE



BOB Books #1

[*Bob Books #1-Reading Magic*](#) is an educational experience that will teach your young children early phonics. This app teaches the sounds that letters make and how to combine them to make short words.

\$3.99



Word Wagon

[*Word Wagon*](#) helps kids learn about letters, phonics, and spelling with Word Wagon. Parents and kids can set it to one of four progressively harder levels: letters, phonics, and spelling of short and long words and also to display either upper- or lowercase letters.

\$1.99



FirstWords Deluxe

[*FirstWords Deluxe*](#) helps kids learn to spell words in five categories with FirstWords Deluxe: Animals, At Home, Colors, Shapes, and Vehicles. Parents can add more categories with in-app purchases.

\$4.99

TOP PRINT AWARENESS APPS



ABC Spy

ABC Spy challenges children to create their own ABC experience by taking photos for each letter of the alphabet — take a photo, choose a frame, give it a name. Then make a movie of all your photos to share with friends and family!

\$1.99 Grade: 3 – 5



Alphabetic

Alphabetic makes identifying letters a game for your child as they have to search for letters A through Z while the letters spin around on the screen and before time runs out.

\$1.99 Grade: K



Alphabetical Order

Alphabetical Order challenges children to put the letters in order as well as to match upper and lower case letters, and to match the letters to their sounds.

\$0.99 Grade: PreK – K



Dr. Seuss's ABC

Dr. Seuss's ABC has three levels, "Read to Me," "Read it Myself," and "Auto Play," which allows children to grow with this app. Words highlighted are read out loud when tapped, and when narrated, children can follow along with the highlighted text.

\$3.99 Grade: PreK



Intro to Letters

Intro to Letters helps children read and write letters A–Z in both capital and lowercase forms with flashcards. Soundcards let your child record and listen to themselves as they practice saying each letter.

\$4.99 Grade: PreK – K



Pictello

Pictello allows the user to create "talking" books with pictures — students can make their own story that is personal to them.

\$18.99 Grade: K – 2



Shape-O ABC's

Shape-O ABC's has children put words with pictures in one of the program's 100 plus puzzles. Voiceovers of the letters help children learn the correct annunciation and the app lets parents adjust the difficulty level to customize it to fit their child's needs.

\$1.99 Grade: PreK – K



Starfall ABC's

Starfall ABC's displays each letter in upper and lowercase and then shows how the letters are used in sentences. Children can also play letter games, such as word mazes.

\$2.99 Grade: PreK – K



Story Patch

Story Patch allows the student to create a story from a template (good for those who need some guidance) or from scratch.

\$2.99 Grade: K – 5



Tap N Learn – Learn to Spell

Tap N Learn – Learn to Spell's three different modes allow children to listen and learn words, match-up letter blocks to form the name of the item featured, and finally drag blocks to form words without any prompts.

FREE Grade: 3 – 5

TOP SPELLING APPS



Alpha Writer

Alpha Writer is a Montessori-style learning app that helps teach kids letter sounds and how to form words by combining different letter sounds. There's a tactile approach to the learning here, as kids can physically manipulate the letters onscreen.

\$4.99 Grade: K



Bob Books #2

Bob Books #2: Reading Magic HD is an interactive book app that uses spelling, repetition, and phonics to build beginning reading skills. Each 12-page book can be played at 4 different difficulty levels — beginning readers drag and drop letters to match words while the app sounds out the letters and reads the word aloud, more advanced readers select letters on their own.

\$3.99 Grades PreK – 2



C is for Cow

C is for Cow is an alphabet game for preschoolers. Each letter of the alphabet corresponds to an animal whose name begin with that letter. Children press the letter to hear it read out loud, another button repeats the letter and says the name of the animal.

\$0.99 Grade: PreK



Clifford's BE Big

Clifford's BE BIG with Words, from PBS Kids, is a spelling app that helps children practice spelling three letter words. Kids are guided toward spelling words by choosing from a selection of letters. Once a word is completed each letter is read out loud.

\$3.99 Grade: K



Licking Letters

Licking Letters is an app that helps kids practice identifying capital letters and spelling three-letter words. Players, with the help of Hoppy the Frog, complete words by tapping the letters as they move across the screen. Hoppy then licks the letter to add it to the word.

\$1.99 Grade: PreK



Montessori Crosswords

Montessori Crosswords helps kids develop literacy skills by dragging and dropping letters into a crossword grid to form words that correspond to the given pictures. Young children can drag letters around in the moveable alphabet and practice linking phonetic sounds to letters, while older kids can expand their vocabularies in the higher of three difficulty levels.

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 5



Pogg

Pogg is a little green alien that acts out spelled words. There are two modes: pictures and spelling. Picture mode offers children that are not yet spelling an icon of the word, when clicked the word is read out loud, and Pogg performs the word.

\$0.99 Grades: PreK – K



Electric Co. Wordball

The Electric Company Wordball incorporates video from the popular television show with a game to teach reading and spelling. The videos are appropriate for any age child learning to read. Kids can listen to some of their favorite music artist as they maneuver through the game.

FREE Grades: K – 4



TEACH ME: K & 1

These two *Teach Me* apps focus on sight words, spelling, addition, and subtraction. In both apps, children answer questions and solve problems to earn sticker rewards.

\$1.99 Grades: K – 1



Word Magic

Word Magic a basic spelling app. For each word, the game presents a picture illustrating the word and the missing letter or letters has to be guessed.

\$0.99 Grades: K – 2

TOP WRITING APPS



ABC Cursive Writer

ABC Cursive Writer is an app for practicing cursive. Students have the options of practicing single letters— upper case or lower case, whole words, word sets, sentences, and numbers.

\$0.99 Grades 3 – 5



iCanWrite

iCanWrite is a letter tracing app. Students can work from preset groups of letters or you can enter groups for them to use. Letters are shown one at a time with a demonstration.

\$1.99 Grades K – 1



iWrite Words

iWrite Words helps to teach kids how to write the letters of the alphabet, numbers up to 20, and simple words using a dot-to-dot approach. It helps if kids already know how to count and read numbers up to 10 in order to play this game.

\$2.99 Grades K – 1



Kids Writing Pad

Kids Writing Pad is a basic large-lined writing pad useful for practicing numbers and letters. It has a middle dotted line between two solid lines like most primary school paper so children can practice having the appropriate parts of the letters or numbers in the right areas.

\$2.99 Grades K – 3



Popplet

Popplet is a productivity app that also works as a mind mapping tool. Use the app to begin structuring the writing process. The app can also be used to create graphic organizers, classroom visuals, organize material according to text structures.

\$4.99 Grades 3–12



Sentence Builder

Sentence Builder is an app that helps children learn to build grammatically correct sentences about a given picture. Special attention is paid to the connector words.

\$4.99 Grades K – 5



Story Builder

Story Builder is a multi-purpose app designed to teach story structure. In the process, students learn sentence structure, sequencing, and inferencing. The app develops comprehension by asking children to respond to questions about a picture, helping them to structure the story.

\$7.99 Grades 1 – 5



Teach Me: 1st Grade

Teach Me: 1st Grade is an app that focuses on writing, spelling, and math. With this app, children answer questions and solve problems using their own handwriting. The app then reads the answers using a writing recognition engine.

\$1.99 Grade 1



Toontastic

Toontastic is a creative learning tool that empowers kids to draw, animate, and share their own stories through imaginative play. Toontastic teaches key storytelling principles. Children are walked through creating the story arc: setup, conflict, challenge, climax, or resolution.

FREE Grades: K – 5

TOP COMPREHENSION APPS



Aesop's Quest

[*Aesop's Quest*](#), based on Aesop's Fables, is a learning game where the student must remember elements of a story to complete a level. At the end of each story segment or level, the student is rewarded with puzzle pieces. After solving the puzzle, the story is complete and the child can continue to the next story.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



MiniMod Fact or Opinion Lite

[*Fact or Opinion*](#) is a bingo style game that helps students practice determining if a passage is factually accurate or the writer's opinion. A correct answer allows the student to place a marker on a bingo style card.

\$3.99 Grades 2 – 5



MiniMod Reading for Details Lite

[*Reading For Details*](#) helps students practice identifying the 5W's of reading — who, what, where, when, and why. After reading a short story, the student is asked a reading detail question, a correct answer allows the student to place on marker on a bingo style card.

\$3.99 Grades 2 – 6



The Opposites

[*The Opposites*](#) app helps children learn vocabulary and the corresponding antonyms by challenging them to match up pairs of opposing words in increasingly difficult levels. The game also helps children understand the importance of word context, and is an opportunity for them to think about how the words they use oppose other words.

\$1.99 Grades 3 – 12



Opposite Ocean

In [*Opposite Ocean*](#), Luna and Leo must master the magic of words by correctly identify the antonym that is the opposite of the given keyword. Children earn pearls when they drag the correct bubble word to the enchanted clam.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



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\$4.99 Grades 3 – 12



Professor Garfield Fact or Opinion

[*Professor Garfield Fact or Opinion*](#) is part story, part game, and part online safety lesson. When Garfield's friend receives an "F" on his report about goats for using opinions instead of facts, Professor Garfield steps in to explain the differences between a fact and an opinion.

FREE Grades K – 2

MORE APPS



Question Builder

Question Builder is designed to help children learn to answer abstract questions and create responses based on inference. Use of audio clips promotes improved auditory processing for special needs children with autism spectrum disorders or sensory processing disorders.

\$5.99 Grades K – 5



Same Meaning Magic

In *Same Meaning Magic* students help Luna and Leo, young magicians at magic school, toss word stones into the wishing well to earn gold coins and jewels by choosing the best synonym.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



Same Sound
Spellbound

Same Sound Spellbound is an adventure designed to help the player understand homophones (words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings, such as "bee" and "be"). Luna and Leo, young magicians at Magic School, must use their spell book to bring animal statues to life.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



Simple Mind

SimpleMind is a basic mind mapping tool that turns an iPhone/iPod into a brainstorming, idea collection and thought structuring device. SimpleMind's limited options make it a good tool for students that are new to mind mapping.

\$6.99



Speech with Milo:
Sequencing

Speech with Milo: Sequencing is a sequencing and storytelling game. Slide the three picture cards into correct order (first, next, and last), then watch the story come to life. A speech-language pathologist chose Milo's activities, such as hitting a baseball or eating a sandwich, to help kids learn to organize time, sentence, and storytelling concepts with familiar themes.

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 4

TOP VOCABULARY APPS



Montessori Crosswords

[*Montessori Crosswords*](#) helps kids develop literacy skills by dragging and dropping letters into a crossword grid to form words that correspond to the given pictures. Young children can drag letters around in the moveable alphabet and practice linking phonetic sounds to letters, while older kids can expand their vocabularies in the higher of three difficulty levels.

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 5



Spelling Bee

[*Spelling Bee*](#) teaches and tests kids on spelling and vocabulary word skills. After studying a wordlist, children are presented with a definition and an audio prompt of the word.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 4



Bookworm

[*Bookworm*](#) is a spelling and vocabulary building word search game. Children link letters left, right, up, and down to build words to feed "Lex" the bookworm. The longer the word the higher the score. The game can be played with or without time limits.

\$1.99 Grades 2 – 4



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\$1.99 Grades 3 – 12



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\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



Chicktionary

[*Chicktionary*](#) is a chicken themed spelling and vocabulary-building word game. Children create as many words as possible out of seven letters. Completed words can be tapped to view their definition. There are multiple levels and children can choose a timed or untimed mode.

FREE Grades 2 – 4



Wurdle

[*Wurdle*](#) is a crossword style game that helps build reading and spelling skills. The object is to find and trace as many words as possible before the time runs out. The default letter grid size of 4x4 works well for beginners but those wanting a challenge can play on larger boards — up to 8x8.

\$1.99 Grades 1 – 3

MORE APPS



Preposition Builder

[*Preposition Builder*](#) helps students learn the correct use of prepositions and learn how prepositions can change the meaning of a sentence. During play, the student is presented an image and must drag a preposition to complete a sentence about the image.

\$7.99 Grades K – 5



Same Meaning Magic

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\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



Same Sound Spellbound

[*Same Sound Spellbound*](#) is an adventure designed to help the player understand homophones (words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings, such as "bee" and "be"). Luna and Leo, young magicians at Magic School, must use their spell book to bring animal statues to life.

\$0.99 Grades 2 – 6



Mad Libs

The [*Mad Libs*](#) app is just how you remember the classic fill-in-the-noun/verb/adverb game, but with a twist! Fill-in-the-blank sections are now interactive, and hints are offered to educate and entertain.

FREE Grades K – 5



Word SLapPs

[*Word SLapPs*](#) is used to teach vocabulary words specific to your child's world by allowing you to upload your own pictures and voice! You can also save your images into customizable categories and record questions to go along with them.

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 4



Word Sort

[*Word Sort*](#) is a practical way to practice parts of speech. Children sort words and phrases by parts of speech before time runs out. The information screen for each part of speech describes each in an informative way. Three difficulty levels allow play by both kids and adults.

\$2.99 Grades PreK – 4