




Our Picks

Applications for the iPod Touch and iPhone



Education:




Icon	Application	Summary	Target Audience	Cost	Ease of Use	Our Rating
	Wheels on the Bus (Shows up as Bus on iPod)	Based on the classic child's rhyme this app presents a fun and interactive way for young children to begin learning to read. Also reinforces concepts such as open/close, on/off, and moving/still.	This app is best for very young children as its interactive features are static. It is best to think of this as an interactive storybook.	\$.99	Easy to use and download, even over a wireless connection. Some settings require altering from the iPod's settings panel. Other than that, safe to place in a young child's hand.	5/5 High level of interactivity is a definite plus. The app even has tracks in other languages. You can also record your own voice.
	Five Little Monkeys	Also based on a children's rhyme. This app teaches children basic math and get them to read while reinforcing concepts of stop/go and open/close.	This app is targeted to very young children.	\$.99	Very easy to download over a wireless network connection.	4/5 Lots of interactivity, but if user moves too fast through app it can cause glitches.
	Build a Word	This is an app that helps young children learn basic spelling via positive reinforcement and interactive play.	Specifically for very young children. Ages 1 and up.	\$2.99	Easy to download over a wireless network. Easy to set up, but takes a while to learn.	3.5/5 Fun, but very limited in number of levels and words.
	Sentence Builder (iSentence)	App that is used to test users on grammatical sentence structure. It features three levels, statistics and positive reinforcement as well as optional aural memory reinforcement.	Ideally for elementary school students. Could be used by anyone learning to read.	\$2.99	Fairly easy to use. Requires input of user name and level. Would be best downloaded over a computer connection.	4.5/5 Features positive reinforcement and forces the users to get the answer correct to proceed. It doesn't keep track of stats for more than one user.
	iReward Chart	This is a program designed to allow a parent/guardian keep track of their child's behaviors. Behaviors can be set and stars are awarded for every task completed. The stars can then be exchanged for user-defined rewards.	Meant for adults to use for children	\$4.99	Easy to download and set up. Users can add photos to profiles.	5/5 While not all the features work just yet, this app is pretty solid is pretty quick and easy to set up. Rewards and responsibilities can be completely user defined making this appropriate for a number of situations.

Organization:

	Flashcards	Great tool that lets users create flash cards and run through them while keeping track of information. Even lets users upload and download flash card sets in Excel and CSV formats. Supports images. Supports voice memos. Can be used as a picture schedule tool as well.	Targeted at older groups looking for study aids but would be useful for many other situations.	\$2.99	Easy to download, but a bit tedious to set up. For strictly text flash cards the downloading options is great.	5/5 Works smoothly. Lots of settings that make this app a must-have for the price.
	StepStones	StepStones is an app designed specifically for producing step-by-step guides for tasks and schedules. Comes with nine preloaded tasks. Supports voice recording.	Appropriate for all ages.	\$29.99	Easy to download.	4.5/5 This app is a step in the right direction, but it would be great to be able to set up the steps on a computer versus on the device itself. Difficult to figure out how to delete a schedule.
	iPrompts	This app is great for setting up schedules for users. The schedules are accompanied by visuals, either from the plentiful stock photos and illustrations or any set of photos that have been downloaded to the iPod device. Pros are that it relies on visual stimuli, but a clear con is that it does not have support for recorded audio like StepStones or Flashcards.	Appropriate for all ages.	\$49.99	Easy to download, but using all of the features can be a bit confusing.	4/5 Program works, but for the price, the lack of audio can be a deal breaker, especially when cheaper programs are around. Layout is the most kid friendliest though.

Communication:

	Speak it!	This is another great application for communication. The user types a phrase and the iPod device will speak it. You can save multiple messages that can be quite long in length. Would be great for speeches and presentations. Can also use with iPhone 3G to speak during a phone call.	Appropriate for all ages.	\$1.99	This app is very easy to use, but best downloaded over the computer as it is fairly large.	5/5 The price makes this application a very simple, affordable and attractive solution. The ability to save phrases is key and the application even boasts the ability to read copied text.
	Sign 4 Me	This app serves a dual purpose as an educational tool and a translation tool. It is based on a 3-D model that responds to user input rather than a video based on prescribed words and phrases. The user types in what he/she would like to sign and the model signs. Variable speed adjustment.	Appropriate for all ages.	\$9.99	Sign 4 Me is extremely intuitive and pretty straightforward. Can be downloaded over a network.	4.5/5 App works as a great communication tool. Lack of quiz for someone learning sign language would be the only real complaint.

	Dragon Dictation	<p>Marketed as a business app, this program allows users to record 20-second dictations, which are then sent to a transcription server and relayed back to the user. Great for jotting down notes while on the go.</p>	<p>Marketed towards adults, but could be used by all ages.</p>	Free	<p>Light download. Easy to use.</p>	<p>5/5 As long as there is a wireless network available this app works dictation magic. Given that it's free there is really not much to be lost.</p>
	Proloquo2Go	<p>Essentially the pinnacle of the combination of assistive technology and hand held devices. This app is fantastic alternative to the traditional AAC module that allows for all age groups in need of communication assistance to carry the power of a \$12,000 AAC module in a \$200 device that fits in a back pocket. This is a device that has literally raised the bar in the field of assistive technology. Ipod/Itouch has a "cool factor" to boot with portability.</p>	<p>Appropriate for all ages. Limited only by dexterity needed to use an iPod device.</p>	\$189.99	<p>Download is hefty and installation takes a bit. Best to grab via the computer and to set some time aside to install.</p>	<p>5/5 Although other programs such as SpeakIt! already feature text to speech capabilities, none compare to the icon based menus, real intuitive design and approximation to an AAC device. Truly showcases the iPod's power as a back pocket tool.</p>
	Skype	<p>Great messaging service that allows users to make calls over VOIP services to real phone numbers or free calls to fellow Skype users. Also works as a chat client.</p>	<p>Suitable for all ages.</p>	Free	<p>Download is light and easy. So is use.</p>	<p>5/5 App is simple, attractive and intuitive.</p>