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BEST EDUCATION AND SPECIAL NEEDS APPS

APPS TO IMPROVE YOUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE: A REPORT

Bonnie Terry LEARNING

Best Education & Special Needs Apps

Before we get into the actual list of best education apps, it is important that you understand the benefits and best practices of using apps for learning purposes.

Studies have shown that children benefit from one on one and group interaction. They need the people interaction in order for their brains to develop. Movement is also critical for children's brain development. Sensory motor exercises and activities integrate the areas of the brain, making it easier to learn.

Brain Studies

The Pediatric Partners, P. A. from Overland Kansas state:

> While there is some research that some educational television programs can promote learning and literacy in children, there is also evidence that the content kids are exposed to matters. Shows that are age appropriate and encourage thought and interaction might be of benefit.
>
> Despite advertising describing how babies can learn to read by watching certain DVDs or kids can learn to read with computer software, research shows that this is not an effective means of promoting language development, and might be detrimental. These "educational" DVDs and computer software have the following problems:
>
> • Operating a mouse while reading a story on the computer requires a higher level of skills than turning the pages in a book. Some children are not able to simultaneously operate the mouse and comprehend the story.
> • When parents and kids interact with electronic console books, parents are less likely to use the kind of verbal interactions that promote literacy. They tend to talk more about behavior ("can you click on this?") and less about responding to content ("what is the boy going to do next?")
> • When children read from electronic console books, they spend more time pushing buttons than reading the story, which results in poorer character identification, less story comprehension, and more impoverished parent-child interaction than reading from traditional books.

- The amount of TV viewing before age 3 has been associated with problems in reading recognition, reading comprehension, and being able to remember sequences at age 6.
- Children who spend less time watching TV in early years tend to do better in school, have a healthier diet, be more physically active, and be better able to engage in schoolwork in later elementary school.
- Teens who watch 3 or more hours of TV daily are at especially high risk for poor homework completion, negative attitudes about school, poor grades, and academic failure.
- Boys who spend more time playing video games spend less time on academics and have lower reading and writing scores.

Victoria L Dunckley, M. D., states:

 "Neuroimaging research shows excessive screen time damages the brain.Taken together, [studies show] internet addiction is associated with structural and functional changes in brain regions involving emotional processing, executive attention, decision making, and cognitive control."

--research authors summarizing neuro-imaging findings in internet and gaming addiction (Lin & Zhou et al, 2012)

To keep in consideration...

Everyone learns through hearing, seeing, and doing, even if you have dyslexia, ADHD, autistic spectrum, or auditory processing problems. When you have dyslexic kids or ADHD kids that struggle with learning, it is due to one or more areas of visual, auditory, or tactile/kinesthetic processing not working as well as they should, could, and can. These (VAK) visual, auditory, and kinesthetic skills are learned skills and they can be improved!

So when thinking about apps for your kids, you want to be sure that you are focusing on apps that will engage several areas of processing. Additionally, you want to be sure that you limit the time your child uses apps, watches television or movies, or has other screen time.

Remember the old adage: If you have too much of a good thing, something pleasant becomes unpleasant because you have too much of it.

And, in addition to having your children use apps for learning, also provide them with a variety of exercises and activities that target 27 areas of perception and make stronger neuropathways and connections in the brain. These specially designed activities, over time and repetition, ultimately create large neuro-networks, effectively making learning everything easier. The stronger these neuropathways become, the faster the information travels and is processed. When your visual, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic processing systems are functioning well, your whole brain functions better, and learning becomes easier.

Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic Areas Impact Learning

Visual

- ☑ Comprehension
- ☑ Visualizing words
- ☑ Spelling
- ☑ Visual memory
- ☑ Visual tracking
- ☑ Writing

Auditory

- ☑ Spelling
- ☑ Reading
- ☑ Note taking
- ☑ Listening
- ☑ Speech
- ☑ Attention

Kinesthetic

- ☑ Spelling
- ☑ Fine-motor skills
- ☑ Gross-motor skills
- ☑ Directionality
- ☑ Spatial awareness
- ☑ Contact

Learning Through the Senses

We all receive information through the five senses: taste, smell, vision, hearing, and doing (tactile/kinesthetic). There are many different tastes: sweet, salty, bitter, and sour. And, there are many different smells: fragrant, pungent, fruity, minty, woody, and savory. In the same token, there are different areas (9 each) of vision, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic processing. The chart above shows some of the ways the auditory, visual, and tactile/kinesthetic processing systems impact learning.

Brain Training Apps

Lumosity - There are a variety of brain training apps here that improve visual processing speed and accuracy, memory, and attention. (All ages)

http://www.lumosity.com/courses/memory-boost

Brainy Skills - Their WH Game is a reading comprehension game made to help children and young adults learn how to apply Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brainy-skills-wh-game/id597667816

Language & Reading Apps

Brain Parade - Language and vocabulary development app.

http://www.brainparade.com/products/see-touch-learn-free/

Reading Bandit - This is a comprehensive phonics program developed for the ipad. It has multisensory lessons and games to develop and strengthen your child's skills in the areas of reading, spelling, handwriting, and sight word identification

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/reading-bandit/id937946758

Prepositions - This app teaches prepositions: in, on, under, down, up, off etc. It is a great way to really understand the meaning of the prepositions.

http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/prepositionbuilder/id413939528

Sentence Builder - This app offers an engaging, challenging, multi-sensory, puzzle-like approach to building sentences. Students really have to think in order to get it right.

http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sentencebuilder-for-ipad/id364197515

English Grammar, Writing, and Spelling - Lots of practice with nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc. It also goes over simple rules of spelling.

http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/english-grammar-writing-in/id409809539

Build Imagination and Storytelling - Great for building your own stories and narrating them too.

http://www.launchpadtoys.com/toontastic/

Explain Everything - This is an interactive white board tool that lets you annotate, animate, narrate, import, and export almost anything to and from almost anywhere.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

Math

Math Flash Cards - math flash cards for mastering basic math facts

http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-math-flash-cards-app/id412496588

Word Problem Strategies - Many step-by-step videos for solving math problems (6th grade level)

http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/grade-6-singapore-math-u.s./id475637973

Math Practice - Games for math practice K-6

http://motionmathgames.com/

Montessori Numbers - This one is for the younger kids - pre-school through kindergarten. It teaches numerals, quantity, tracing of numbers, and counting

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/montessori-numbers-math-activities/id547209737

Splash Math for Pre-school and Kindergarten - Learn basic number skills with this app: counting, comparing number values, addition, subtraction, measurement, and some simple geometry concepts.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/splash-math-kindergarten-fun/id610303073

Splash Math for Older Students - A variety of math concepts practiced at each grade level (1st - 5th grades)

https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/studypad-inc./id432105528

Science

Simple Physics - This is a great game for teaching simple to complex physics concepts. All ages.

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/simplephysics/id408233979

ScratchJr - A fun way to intorduce your young children (5-8 year olds) to computer coding. They actually do learn how to code!

http://www.forbes.com/sites/jordanshapiro/2014/08/06/your-five-year-old-can-learn-to-code-with-an-ipad-app/

Alternative Communication Apps

Proloquo2Go - Symbol-based AAC - This app provides a voice for those that are unable to speak. You can make phrases and sentences. The app will also speak back to you.

http://itunes.apple.com/app/proloquo2go/id308368164

Look at me…to learn smiling—social skills – This company also has a variety of touch and write apps. Great for those in the autistic spectrum. See a demo here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aV9TNzpVhZE

Website: http://www.fizzbrain.com/

Articulation Station - This is a speech articulation game. Great articulation practice!

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/articulation-station/id467415882

Over 50 more iPad Apps and Resources for Autism and other Special Needs

https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/bonnieterrylearning.com/pub?key=0AjbIta8OTS0KdHRMVWx0Q3pvOWRXRXBfd01jc3lqakE&hl=en&single=true&gid=0&output=html

Great Software for Building Auditory Skills

Earobics - A proven, research-based intervention solution. Earobics has a variety of levels from pre-K through third grade.

http://www.earobics.com/solutions/programs.php

Hearbuilder - Strengthens listening, memory, and comprehension skills
http://www.hearbuilder.com/

Hands-on Games to Improve Learning Skills

There are many games you can play in the classroom or at home that improve learning skills as well as provide social interaction and modeling of skills. My suggestion is to have some time on apps learning skills and then have some time with hands-on games with manipulatives. This way your children are getting the practice with technology and the hands on learning that really cements in the skills you are working on.

The Sentence Zone

Teaches and gives practice with how to write a sentence at the K-1st grade level, introduce grammar concepts at 4th - 6th grade levels, builds vocabulary and more advanced grammar skills from 7th - 9th grade, and can be played ofr SAT prep with 10th and above. It does give practice with the 6 basic sentence types (4 simple sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences).

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/sentence-zone-english-grammar-writing-skills/

The Comprehension Zone: Rocket Rap

Teaches and gives practice in finding the main idea, details, and sequencing what you read. Comes with 2nd - 3rd, 4th - 6th, and 7th - 12th grade reading levels. Can be palyed simultaneously with all reading levels. Can also be played for listening comprehension.

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/improve-reading-comprehension/

The Math Zone

This is a calculation practice card game. It gives practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as halving and doubling. Comes with two levels of play. For 7-9 years & 9 years-adult

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/math-game/

Hands-on Programs to Improve Learning Skills

Bonnie Terry Learning also provides a variety of programs to help you help your children improve their skills in just 20 minutes a day.
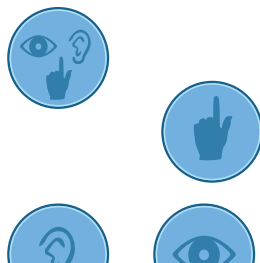
Neuro-Developmental Behaviorally-Based Assessment

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/neuro-developmental-behaviorally-based-assessment/

Reading, Writing, and Study Skills Program

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/learning-reading-writing-study-skills-program/
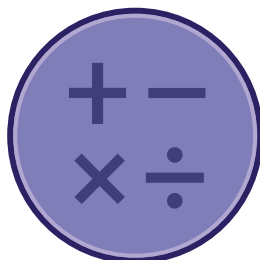
VAK Therapy (Visual, Auditory, and Kinesthetic)

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/visual-auditory-kinesthetic-vak-therapy-program/
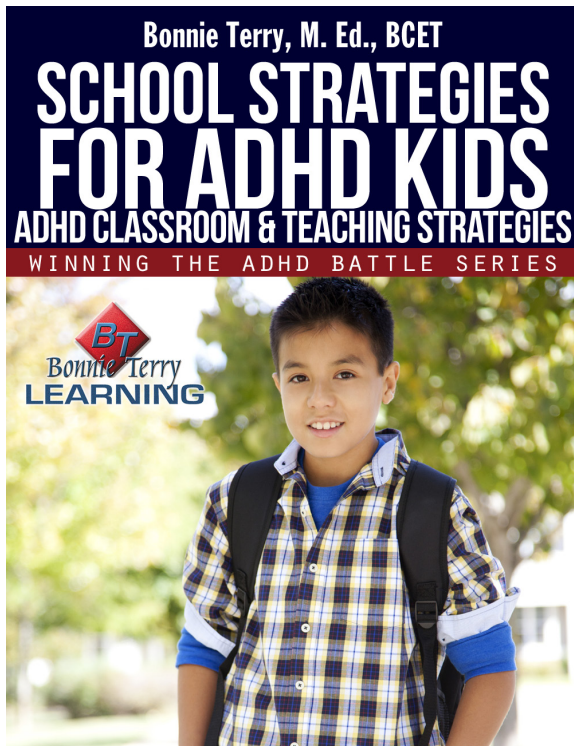
Spelling and Phonics Program

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/spelling-phonics-program/

Math Program

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/learning-math-program/

Premium Program

(Includes all programs plus weekly live support calls)

http://www.bonnieterrylearning.com/product/asw-premium-adhd-autism-dyslexia-program/

Specific School Strategies for ADHD Kids

- Secrets to decreasing distractibility in the classroom
- How to get your ADHD kids to stop interrupting the class
- Simple steps to stopping the continual ADHD fidgeting and hyperactivity
- Simple steps to get your ADHD kids to follow directions
- How to get your ADHD kids to complete assignments

School Strategies for ADHD Kids guides parents to strategize with their child's teacher to get the best out of the classroom learning experience. This book also helps guide parents, homeschoolers, teachers, and professionals in more successful ways of handling their ADHD students.

Amazon Kindle:

Type in the title or this number into the Amazon search box:
ASIN: B00BJCFN50

Specific Family Strategies for ADHD Kids

- Secrets to how the ADHD mind thinks
- How to take advantage of procrastination
- How to implement simple steps to time management
- How to help your ADHD kids with organizational skills including their bedrooms
- How to organize their week: homework, sports, chores
- How to promote a good night's sleep and learn why sleep problems affect ADHD

*Family Strategies for ADHD Kids...*helps from morning routines to after school check-in, to evening and bedtime routines. Special attention is given to those after school hours as well as handling 'lazy' or 'unmotivated' kids.

Amazon Kindle:

Type in the title or this number into the Amazon search box:
ASIN: B00CAB41MU