

This information sheet gives an overview of a number of apps which may be useful for various aspects of autism.

Organisation

Timer+ (Free iTunes)

Timer+ is a free app that allows you to set a visual time limit and countdown for activities as well as running in the background while you use other apps on your device. This can be particularly useful in a classroom setting to allow children to transition between activities.

First Then Visual Schedule HD (£7.99 iTunes)

First Then Visual Schedule HD lets you create a pictogram-based schedule, with a timer for each event, that the child can then check off as each task is completed.

Autism Tracker Pro (£7.99 iTunes)

Autism Tracker allows you to track what matters to your child and your family. You can use the visual calendar and multi-item graphs to view and discuss patterns. It also allows you to share with your team using email, iCloud, Dropbox, or Twitter (Twitter lets you set up closed groups). It is fully customizable, but already set up to get you started: it contains mood items (happiness, stress, activity level, hyperactivity, weather), behaviour items (bolting, self-injury, property destruction, tantrum), food items (casein, lactose, gluten, food colouring, caffeine), health items (sleep, bowel movements, bowel movement texture).

Communication

Please note that Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is not one size fits all, and no two people with autism are the same or have precisely the same needs.

TouchChat HD (£109.99 iTunes)

TouchChat is an AAC app that is flexible and comes pre-loaded with 4 vocabularies. TouchChat can serve a young child with no literacy skills and severely impaired communication up to a fully literate adult who simply lacks the physical ability to speak.

Proloquo2Go (£199.99 iTunes)

Proloquo2Go is available on iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch for people who have difficulty speaking or cannot speak at all. It enables people to talk using symbols or typed text in a natural-sounding voice that suits their age and character. Proloquo2Go can be adapted to suit the needs of a wide range of users with varying literacy levels.

Grace App (£22.99 iTunes)

Grace App is a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) used to give beginning to intermediate symbolic communicators a sense of independence as they learn to communicate with others in their environment. The best part of this app is in its simplicity, as well as time saving and organisational qualities. You can also add pictures from the internet without difficulty.

Fun

Barn Door Four (Free iTunes)

Barn Door Four (BD4) is an ABA-based app that follows Mac as he embarks on an adventure with Pepe the Pig, Lucy the Sheep and Ace the Rooster. Barn Door Four incorporates a variety of exercises, data systems and analysis for teaching imitation skills, fine motor skills, visual performance, receptive language, intraverbals (a verbal response to the words of others), play and leisure skills and functional routines.

Kid in Story (£4.99 iTunes)

Kid in Story Book Maker makes it easy and fun to create visual stories to support learning, social modelling and early literacy with your child as the star character. You can write your own custom story or modify any of the templates provided.

Bugs and Buttons (£2.29 iTunes)

This app is an extremely intuitive and fun series of games. The games teach useful skills such as fine motor control, language use and understanding. The games are repetitive and the background music is soothing and pleasant. These games will help children to develop their confidence as well as having fun.

Life skills

ConversationBuilder (£14.99 iTunes)

This app presents images of scenarios and asks your child to start a conversation. A selection of possible statements is presented and the child must pick the most appropriate response. If they choose correctly the app praises them and then asks them to record their voice saying the appropriate phrase. If they choose incorrectly, the narrator gently asks them to try again. At the end of each exercise the app combines all the recorded responses with the other child's and generates the entire conversation for the player to hear in real-time.

Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim (Free iTunes)

Many people with autism are drawn to water and do not have a full appreciation of the dangers involved. This app teaches them about water and water safety. There is a water safety song which is a good way of helping children to learn.

DialSafe Pro (Free iTunes)

Dialsafe Pro allows children to practice telephone skills and also to learn important phone numbers, including those for emergency services. The parent can also add three audio answers, so that when the child dials the number correctly, they hear who they called answer the phone! This is also helpful for role playing and learning appropriate conversations for on the phone. The app can support numbers from Australia, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the U.S. There is also a setting to change the appearance of the phone from "fun" to "real".

Little Writer (£0.79 iTunes)

This app is helpful for teaching children how to improve their fine motor skills and handwriting as well as teaching them new words. Your child traces upper and lowercase letters, numbers from 1 to 9 and shapes and words. The app is fully customisable; you can hide any content that you think is too advanced for your child as well as adding your own words and pictures and recording your own voice on the app. You can also add pictures of friends, family and favourite items so your child can practice writing their names.