

<u>Developer</u>	<u>App Name</u>	<u>Added</u>	<u>Like</u>
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<u>Tapfuze</u>	<u>Alphabet Fun</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>***</u>
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Write/trace on paper-like lines with a dash line. Alphabet, words, colors and numbers. Blank lines for practice. We like it for correct letter formation within lines.

<u>Oncilla Technologies</u>	<u>Alphabet Tracing</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>**</u>
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Follow a moving train or worm to correctly trace and then write letters. Great for beginners. A little boring after about a month.

<u>@Reks</u>	<u>Caboose – Learn to Recog. Patterns</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>*</u>
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I am warming to this App. Simple to use. Good to revisit patterns after teaching early in the year.

<u>RatCat Software</u>	<u>DirtMovers Construction Counting</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>*</u>
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\*Limited to counting to 10. No way to repeat the target number. So-so

<u>Darren MurthaDesign</u>	<u>Drawing pad</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>***</u>
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Fantastic! We like it for it's versatility. Draw with pencils, crayons or markers, paint with various size brushes. Great variety of colors in all mediums. Background paper choices, stickers, special effects. Save options plentiful. Import from photo roll and draw/write on. This is a great App.

<u>Mintmomeg</u>	<u>G1 math</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>*</u>
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Complicated to use. Only appropriate for advanced K's/First Grade. Some modules within this app are good. Some are so-so.

<u>Montessorium</u>	<u>Intro to Mathematics</u>	<u>January</u>	
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<u>gdplus</u>	<u>iWrite Words Handwriting Game</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>**</u>
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Follow the bug on big letter forms. Modules for upper case or lower case, also numbers. Kids stayed engaged and always want to do it. We like it for its strict guide for exact letter formation and fine motor practice.

<u>Egert Software</u>	<u>Jungle ABC Bingo</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>**</u>
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<u>Kids Place</u>	<u>Kids Can Spell Animals</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>*</u>
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<u>Lakeshore Learning</u>	<u>Letter of the Day</u>	<u>January</u>	
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Nothing here to recommend. Boring.

<u>Grasshopper</u>	<u>Kids Learning to Read Little Reader</u>	<u>3 letter words</u>	
<u>January</u>			

Great app. Levels possible. We like the real world pictures and manipulative options.

Grasshopper Apps Little speller 3 letter Words January  
Students pull down jumbled letters to spell words. Real world photos for objects.  
We like it for the ability to customize the words by vowels and difficulty and the multiple exposures to words and the letters to spell them.

Smart Kids Media Math Adventure January  
All Math operations. A little awkward to launch the games. It is not intuitive.  
This is mostly too difficult for K's. Good for first grade.

Emantras Inc. Measurement HD October \*\*  
Limited activities. Fill the cup and weight activities are appealing to students. Not much depth here.

L'Esapadou Montessori Crosswords October \*\*\*  
Fantastic! We like it for the phonemic awareness and accessibility to students.  
Students hear the sounds to make words. Hidden hint helps students acquire confidence. Customize settings for difficulty allows for differentiation. Go from making single three letter words to complete crossword puzzles.

PBS PBS KidsVideo October \*\*\*  
We had difficulty running this on our network last year, but with our fabulous upgrades the issues seem to be resolved. It is a great App to recommend to parents. Play dozens of videos from PBS including segments from Sesame Street about letters and Social Studies topics like friendship. It was free.

Abitalk Phonics Consonants January \*\*\*

Abitalk Phonics Vowels January \*\*\*  
Same developer as above this is a word family app with short vowel and long vowel patterns. The App allows you to hear all the sound choices and offers a hint if the student is stuck. Make words then match the words to pictures for reading practice. Again, positive response.

Polished Play Puppet Pals Initial \*\*\*  
We've just introduced this App to students as it is somewhat complex. If you buy be sure to get the Directors Pack. It allows you to download all the character packs whenever you want them. We don't really like the Pirate swords and guns, and Kindergarten really doesn't need the Political pack, but there are endless possibilities for storytelling here. We like the recorded narration by the students for speaking practice. We have special quiet times for recording, but this might be an issue for you.

tApps                      Read on sight free (case sensitive)                      January

FreshPlanet Inc.      Red Fish Alphabet                      October      \*

Activity for each letter of the alphabet. The kids love the animations for each letter. They sometimes get fixed on one letter. Not sure if there is that much value with such intense repetition, but very engaging letter practice.

Brain Parade                      See Touch Learn                      October

Not our favorite. Screen is too crowded for intuitive use. It is progressive and good for EL practice with a teacher in a small group.

Bellamon                      Shape-O ABC's                      January

Newness World      Shape Puzzle                      Initial      \*\*\*

Never gets old with students. Objects in a scene are separated into puzzle pieces that students drag to make the object. They love it. Great visual discrimination practice.

Grasshopper Apps      Sight Words by Little Speller                      January

We love this developer but there was a delay in adding it so we haven't used it yet.

Lakeshore                      Sound Sorting Beginning Sounds                      January      \*\*\*

Kids choose three pictures from a picture alphabet page. The app sends pictures down a chute and they drag them below the picture with the same beginning sound. We like it for beginning sound practice.

Doonan Speech Therapy      Speech With Milo Sequencing                      January

Preschool University                      Spelling Magic ABC                      January

Starfall.                      Starfall ABC 's                      October      \*\*\*

Fantastic! We love it for the multiple pictures and activities for each letter. Lots of variety, excellent illustrations and photos. One of the kid's favorite.

Starfall.                      Starfall Gingerbread                      October      \*\*\*

Another good app from this developer. Use shapes to make a gingerbread man or girl then "run" them through a pattern maze. So much fun kids hardly notice they are learning.

Starfall.                      Starfall Snowman                      October      \*\*\*

Not as much here as the previous two, but still entertaining. Make a snowman character then count to 10 with him/her. Good for early in the year.

Tapfuze                      Story Buddy                      October      \*\*\*

This is a complex App we just introduced in January. Students can draw or paint using a color box of 15 or more colors. They can adjust the size of the line using

a simple up or down arrow. Import pictures from the camera roll, add text, move things around on the page. Add pages similar to PowerPoint. Save and share your book. The only difficulty for Kindergartners is the small dialogue bubbles that appear at times. For example, when students come back to their book and tap it, it the box pops up to choose EDIT, READ, SHARE. Difficult for K's. Still a good App for a journal type structure.

Tapfuze                      Story Buddy 2    Spring 2012   \*\*

This is a very good upgraded app but had to be purchased separately. New features include icon opening page, recording capability, paper choices. The ability to record is a great addition to this app. We used this for making books that coincided with Language Arts, Science or Social Studies themes. The only limitation is that it only allows 5 books to be stored on the shelf. If students are sharing iPads, this is a bit limiting.

Vivid Apps                      Strip Designer    October                      \*\*\*

Used by teachers to create pages for students and by older students helping Kindergartners make all the choices. Too Advanced for independent use by Kindergarten students. It is the perfect App for cooperative projects.

24x7digital LLC                      Teach Me Kindergarten    Initial                      \*\*

Set up for individual students to enter the App under their own name. Up to 5 students can set up profiles. Customize settings for differentiation or target skills. The App carries scores forward and students continue rather than begin again each time. This creates a management issue when i-pads are not issued to the same students each time. Not a favorite

Gramercy Consultants                      This is My Story and I'm Sticking To It                      January

Fill in the blanks for themed silly stories. Not so academic, but can be

Launchpad Toys                      Toontastic    Initial                      \*\*

UANGEL Corp.                      Touchband Free    October                      \*\*

This was a personal interest for one of the teachers. Good to teach to whole class where there are 1:1 i-pads or in small group.

digitalsled                      Touch Count (i-phone App)    October                      \*\*

Read the number and tap on that many objects. Choose different kinds of objects to count such as cupcakes or bugs. Not very fancy, but it was free and good practice.

Alligator Apps                      Touch and Learn letters and numbers                      October                      \*\*

Alligator Apps                      Touch and Learn Shapes Game                      October                      \*\*

Pioneer Valley Ed. Press                      Who Can Read? Book Reader                      January

Don't bother.

ABCya.com      Word Bingo (Sight Word)      October      **\*\***  
Love this app. Can be bingo or spelling practice for sight words. Listen to a word and find it on the bingo card. Teachers need to introduce the menu as there are choices to create a player profile. We have them sign in as guest so the game repeats, but can be progressive. Has Dolch lists up to third grade. GREAT!

Amusen Inc.      Word Magic      October      **\*\***  
Customize for differentiation and challenge. This is a very good App and holds student's interest when offered weekly or bi-weekly.

Duck Duck Moose      Word Wagon      January

Classroom Focused Software      10 Frame Fill      October      **\***  
Not much here. A ten frame is presented partially filled. Drag counters to fill. Not very interesting to kids and sometimes the screen scrambles.

Andrew Chew      123 Balloons HD      October      **\*\***  
Simple counting game. Students pop colored balloons. The best game is where the student has to pop them in numerical order. For the game of Pop as many as you can in a timed set, one teacher had students pick a single color to pop to practice visual discrimination as well. Kids like it.

## BOOKS

Learning Touch      Bob BooksBB Reading Magic #1      Initial      **\*\*\***  
Great! The book pages appear as lined drawings. As you tap on the words the matching picture pops out of the book and students drag letters to make that word. The picture fills in with color and pops back in to the story. And so on. There is so much to do with each book there isn't usually time to read the whole book so establishing a reading routine would be good for this App. Still, this App has a lot to offer.

Learning Touch      Bob books BB Reading Magic #2      January      **\*\*\***  
Same as above

Kidzstory 9      Goldilocks and the Three Bears      October      **\*\*\***  
We were looking for digital versions for some of the stories that we read multiple times in our Language Arts Curriculum. This is a good version. It is read by someone with an English accent, but we liked it anyway. We also want to get Gingerbread Man, Tortoise and Hare, and Lion and Mouse by this same

developer. Best value for a book and kids return to it over and over. They love these books.

Duck Duck Moose The Wheels on the Bus October \*

Not much here but young children like it and it is one of the most addicting songs ever.

Penguin The Little Engine That Could (Classic Version) October \*\*\*

This is the original version with all original text and pictures including jackknives for the little boys. Love this even though it is a little pricey. This book continues to please and teach and is also a curriculum book.

Tab Tales Town Mouse / Country Mouse October \*\*

New Image Media, LLC Footsteps to Brilliance Initial \*\*\*

This is a subscription we piloted. We like the way the words are highlighted as they are read and the themes of the books. They can also read the book by tapping each word. Students are very excited to use this feature to "treasure hunt" words the teacher wants to emphasize like sight words. The books are a little bit long and they all rhyme (not always successfully). We also like the comprehension piece although we would like more variety in the questions and a random rotation of 5 or 6 each time because students remember the answers and just drag. They are in levels so it is progressive. This developer collects data about how many times students are exposed to certain words and they work hard to place tier 2 words in the books. There are also teacher resources like flash cards and teachers can add their own activities for other teachers to use. We didn't find the data very useful to drive our instruction. This is an expensive proposition and we are evaluating it. We would like to find individual books where students can track each word and read by tapping each word. Get busy Developers!