

Best Apps List For Primary Classroom

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Part of a Resource Development Project by the Calistoga Elementary School Kindergarten Team

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	<p><u>Alphabet Fun</u> 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.</p>	.99
	<p><u>Alphabet Tracing</u> Follow a moving train or worm to correctly trace and then write letters. Great for beginners. A little boring after about a month.</p>	free
	<p><u>Brain Parade See Touch Learn</u> Not our favorite. Screen is too crowded for intuitive use. Progressive difficulty with photo vocabulary practice. Customizable. Just too many steps for the teacher. May not be available any longer</p>	?
	<p><u>Dirt Movers Construction</u> Limited to counting to 10. No way to repeat the target number. So-so. Not much here. The kids still like it, but questionable learning outcomes.</p>	1.99
	<p><u>Drawing Pad</u> Fantastic! We like it for its versatility. Draw with pencils crayons or markers. Background paper choices, stickers, special effects. Import photos and draw/write on them. New update has keyboard for text. Save options plentiful. This is a must have app</p>	1.99
	<p><u>G 1 Math</u> Complicated to use. Only appropriate for advanced K's/First Grade. Some modules within this app are good. Some are so-so or aligned with a specific math program that I am not familiar with.</p>	1.99
	<p><u>iWrite Words</u> Follow the bug on big letter forms - upper and lower case options also numbers and words. Kids stayed engaged and always want to do it. We like it for its forced directionality and fine motor practice.</p>	2.99

	<p><u>Jungle ABC Bingo</u> Jungle background and sounds. Upper and lower case options. Good for context variety in learning ABC's. Great for the student that needs extra letter name practice.</p>	.99
	<p><u>Learning to Read Little Reader 3 letter words</u> The next three apps are by Grasshopper Kids and they are great. The pictures are photos of real objects and people.</p>	Free
	<p>At least one of these was free and I think two were. Students match words and pictures for reader and use scattered letters to spell words for the other two.</p>	Free
	<p>I highly recommend this developer and I believe there are 4 letter word and other products.</p>	Free
	<p><u>Math Adventure</u> All math operations. A little awkward to launch the games. Not very intuitive. Most too difficult for Kindergartners, but was often cited as favorite app.</p>	1.99
	<p><u>Montessori Crosswords</u> Fantastic! We like it for the phonemic awareness and accessibility to students. Students hear the sounds to make words. Hidden hint helps students gain confidence. Customize settings for difficulty allows for differentiation. Go from making single three letter words to complete crossword puzzles.</p>	2.99
	<p><u>Montessorium Intro to Mathematics</u> This is a manipulative style learning of numbers 1-10. Great for young children and beginning Kinders. Very interactive. Limited to number 10. We got this for a lot less - I would not pay \$5.00 for this.</p>	4.99
	<p><u>PBS KidsVideo</u> We had difficulty running this on our old network, but with our fabulous internet upgrades the issues are resolved. Play dozens of videos from PBS including</p>	Free

	segments from Sesame Street about letters and Social Studies topics like friendship. It is a great App recommend to parents. It was free.	
	<u>Phonics Consonants</u> This is another great developer. Abitalk. This App has a lot of vocabulary practice built in to the letter work. We like it for our English Learners to gain exposure to many words.	Free
	<u>Phonics Vowels</u> Same developer as above. This is a word family App with short and long vowel patterns. The App allows you to hear all the sound choices and offers hints. Make words then match the words to pictures.	Free
	<u>Puppet Pals</u> Somewhat complex, but students navigate most options. We have the Directors Pack which allows you to download all the character packs whenever you want them. We don't really like the Pirate swords and guns, and Kindergartners don't really need the political pack, but there are endless possibilities for storytelling. We like the recorded narration by the students for speaking practice. Recordings will pick up classroom noise.	1.99 Plus .99 for each set of charact ers. Get all new sets for Director s Pass
	<u>Red Fish Alphabet</u> 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 loss of value with such intense repetition, but very engaging letter practice. You could list letters to visit.	
	<u>Shape Puzzle ABC</u> 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, lots of variety in scenes. FREE!	Free
	<u>Shape-O Puzzles</u> Drag puzzle pieces to make animals and objects. Ability to change puzzle colors and increase difficulty. Good visual discrimination and spatial practice.	.99

	<p><u>Sound Sorting - Beginning Sounds</u> Students choose three pictures with different beginning sounds. Drag pictures from chute to corresponding beginning sound. This App is useful for the entire year especially for differentiation. Students tire of it.</p>	
	<p><u>Spelling Magic ABC</u> New to us, but we like it already. Uses photos of real objects for CVC word spelling. ELL students listen to the word, spell the word with hints or moveable alphabet and read the word.</p>	Free
	<p><u>Starfall ABC's</u> Any App by this developer is worth a look. 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 favorites.</p>	2.99
	<p><u>Starfall Gingerbread</u> 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.</p>	?
	<p><u>Starfall Snowman</u> 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.</p>	?
	<p><u>Strip Designer</u> Used by teachers to create pages for students and older students helping type while kinders make all the choices. Too advanced for independent use by most Kindergarten students. Perfect for small group, teacher led or cooperative multi-grade projects. Very simple to manipulate photos.</p>	2.99
	<p><u>Story Buddy 2</u> This is an upgrade from the first one. Draw or paint using colorbox. Adjust the size of lines. Import pictures from the camera roll, add text, move things around on the page. Add and move pages like Power Point. Save your book to the in App shelf or share. A few drawbacks are that you cannot draw on a photo,</p>	3.99

	<p>only 5 books can be stored on each iPad shelf, small dialogue boxes that Kinders can't read, and the share feature is not well developed. If it is on deep discount and you only want to make books for PDF format, then this might be for you. We are looking for alternatives.</p>	
	<p><u>Teach Me Kindergarten</u> Set up to 5 individual students with profiles. Customize settings for different or target skills. Carries scores forward and students continue. This creates a management issue when iPads are shared by different students each time. Not a favorite.</p>	1.99
	<p><u>This is My Story and I'm Sticking To It</u> Fill in the blanks for a themed silly story similar to madlibs. Not very academic and not a favorite. We like apps that have more versatility.</p>	1.99
	<p><u>Toontastic</u> This was given to us initially without our review. We have not used it very much. It has a good guide for making a story, but too much reading. We like apps that can be used independently or with minimum supervision. I believe this is a good app, but maybe not for very young students. We will use it more and then put up a new review.</p>	
	<p><u>Word Bingo Sight Word Bingo</u> 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. Has Dolch list choices up to third grade for maximum differentiation. GREAT!! We're getting Math Bingo by the same developer.</p>	.99
	<p><u>123 Balloons HD</u> Simple counting game. Students pop colored balloons. The best game might be where students have to pop in numerical order. For the game of POP you can have students pick a single color to pop. Kids like it and go back to it often for free choice.</p>	1.99

