

Reading Apps



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<https://sites.google.com/site/bawollak/>

| Features of App | yes/no |
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| Is it free of ads? | |
| Is it age appropriate? | |
| Is it motivating? | |
| Is it free or low cost? | |
| Does activating interactive aspects of the pages distract from the reading of the text? | |
| Is the reading of the text good quality? | |
| Are the words in the text highlighted, word-by-word? (a feature you'd only want for someone learning concept of word) | |
| Is the app free of quizzes that test rather than to help teach comprehension? | |
| Is errorless learning used? With errorless learning, students aren't able to learn from their mistakes. This approach may not lead to generalization. | |
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The following are apps that may be appropriate for shared reading, guided reading, and self-selected reading. Most apps include actions or sounds that are activated when an object on the page is touched. Shared reading is for emergent literacy learners who are learning how text works. Interaction and communication with a partner are key. Although many e-books facilitate interaction, the adult must ensure that the reading of the text is not lost during all the animations and sounds.











The apps are rated with 5 stars being the best.

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| Access Language Arts  \$39.95* |  Set of four books with good quality narration. The book topics are appropriate for older students but the text is picture-supported with word by word highlighting that you can't turn off. There is a vocabulary lesson that uses errorless learning with picture to word matching instead of encouraging |
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| | <p>readers to make connections. There is also a quiz at the end of each book that employs errorless learning.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat Around the World</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Animated book with British narrator. Illustrations and theme may be appropriate for older beginning reading. You can't turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won't be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can't be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat In the Garden</p>  |  <p>Animated book with British narrator. High picture to text match and would be good for a beginning, younger reader. Lots of interaction possibilities for shared reading. You can't turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won't be highlighted. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator but the finished work can't be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat It Was a Cold, Dark Night</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Animated book with British voice about a hedgehog looking for a home. Lots of simple repeated lines. Since hedgehogs are not native to the U.S., readers here may have difficulty relating to the topic. You can't turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won't be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can't be shared or saved. Writing with all 26</p> |









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| | <p>letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat My Bike Ride</p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>Animated book with British narrator. The text and animations reinforce concepts like “up”, “down”, “right” and “left”. You can’t turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won’t be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can’t be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat Playing</p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>Animated book with British narrator. The illustrations and animations could lead to lots of communication and interaction during shared reading. There is a high picture to word match. The illustrations feature older children so this book may be appropriate for older beginning readers. You can’t turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won’t be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can’t be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat Steam Train</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>Animated book with British voice. Lots of interaction possibilities for shared reading. You can’t turn off word</p> |









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|  <p>free</p> | <p>by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won't be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can't be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>C. Collins Big Cat The Farmer's Lunch</p>  |  <p>Animated book with British voice and vocabulary, such as "biscuit". Farmer also doesn't look like an "American farmer". Simple repetitive text structure, "Where's my ...". Lots of interaction possibilities for shared reading. You can't turn off word by word highlighting in Read to Me mode, but you could use the Read by Myself mode and record your own reading and the words won't be highlighted when the recording is played. Can write and record your own story using Story Creator with scenes and characters from the book but the finished work can't be shared or saved. Writing with all 26 letters would be a better option than using the word bank that is provided.</p> |
| <p>Capti</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Capti will read anything on the web, in Dropbox, or on GoogleDrive. Will read multiple languages.</p> |
| <p>Cinderella by Magic Ink</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Good quality narration. Choice of male or female voice.</p> |





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| <u>FraggleFriends Forever</u>  \$2.99* |  An interactive book featuring Fraggle Friends. Good narration. |
| <u>Geo-Me</u>  \$1.99* |  Visit sites around the world. Each site includes basic statistics and a song about the area and its location that includes text. |
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| <u>Grimm's Hansel & Gretel</u>  \$3.99* |  Interactive 3-D popup book. Also includes following directions. These embedded activities may impede text comprehension of the story if the reader is not familiar with the fairy tale Good quality narration. |
| <u>Grimm's Puss in Boots</u>  \$3.99* |  Interactive 3-D popup book. Also includes following direction. These embedded activities may impede text comprehension of the story if the reader is not familiar with the fairy tale Good quality narration. |
| <u>Grimm's Rapunzel</u>  \$6.99* |  Interactive 3-D popup book. Also includes “following directions” such as “touch and move a flower to add it to the basket. These embedded activities may impede text comprehension of the story if the reader is not familiar with the fairy tale. Good quality narration. |

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| <p><u>Grimm's Sleeping Beauty</u></p>  <p>\$3.99*</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>Interactive 3-D popup book. Also includes following direction These embedded activities may impede text comprehension of the story if the reader is not familiar with the fairy tale. Good quality narration and animation.</p> |
| <p><u>La Luna</u></p>  <p>\$1.99</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>This app contains a short video, an interactive video and a storybook. Having the interactive piece separate from the book is nice because those features don't detract from the actual reading. Great graphics and narration.</p> |
| <p><u>Lil' Red</u></p>  <p>\$3.99*</p> | <p>★★★★</p> <p>Animated wordless picture book about the familiar story of Little Red Riding Hood. Would be good for beginning readers.</p> |
| <p><u>Little Red Riding Hood</u> by BeanBag Kids</p>  <p>\$.99</p> | <p>★★</p> <p>The text font is difficult to read. Narration and spelling is British.</p> |
| <p><u>Little Red Riding Hood</u> by Tab Tale</p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★★</p> <p>This might be okay for shared reading. There are distracting ads which an adult would need to close. The text for the story rhymes, which is a plus for encouraging phonological awareness. There are many animations that could easily get "in the way" of the actual text. You can record on this app but the playback is not a natural voice and it can't be saved. The narration is good. Other free books by this company include "The Wizard of Oz" and "Peter Pan".</p> |



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| McPlay  free |  Free e-books from McDonalds. Currently there are 2 with more to come. There is no speech support but some interactive features. One is "The Goat Who Ate Everything" and the other is "World's Greatest Cities." |
| MeeGenius  free |  There are some free familiar fairy tales that have been re-written with different endings than the traditional tales. The books are narrated but the word by word highlighting is distracting. There are no interactive features on the pages. |
| MonsterSocks  \$1.99* |  Would be good for shared reading with a younger child. Lots of opportunities for interactions. Rhyming text supports phonological awareness. |
| My Mom's the Best  \$1.99* |  Good quality narration. Several pages are great for a conversation about words that have "multiple meanings." |
| Oscar Goes to the Zoo  free** |  This book may be read with Wordlinks, text in red that explains vocabulary. Good narration. Can record your retelling of the story. |
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| <p>Rhymes for Kids HD</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Five nursery rhymes with text are sung. The singing does not follow the text exactly</p> |
| <p>Tar Heel Reader</p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>For directions on getting the Tar Heel Reader to work in app mode, click here. This is a wonderful resource of free books for beginning readers. Speech support as well as alternative access is provided. Books can be downloaded and printed.</p> |
| <p>Torii's Summer Adventure</p>  <p>\$1.99</p> |  <p>Interactive book about a dog. Two different text levels with one being easier. Good narration.</p> |
| <p>The Adventures of Puppup</p>  <p>\$2.99*</p> |  <p>Nice book with British narrator and fun animations. Would be appropriate for shared reading with young children.</p> |
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| <p><u>The Boy who Cried Wolf</u></p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>No frills app with text, but no narration.</p> |
| <p><u>The Prisoner of Carrot Castle</u></p>  <p>\$3.99*</p> |  <p>The story, in my opinion, was not very interesting. There are some fairly good graphics for talking about castle and “knight” vocabulary. The animations and narration are good.</p> |
| <p><u>TouchCast</u></p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>App that integrates video with the web. Lots of possibilities for creating authentic reading and writing activities. (e. g. Could include an author’s web site in the ToucCast and have the student narrate a book review with the video component which includes a teleprompter where text can be written).</p> |
| <p><u>Two Elephant Stampedes Helped Us Plant Seeds</u></p>  <p>free*</p> |  <p>Very short book about seeds. I’m not sure what the title of this book has to do with the story that is presented.</p> |
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| Wubbzy the Superhero  \$2.99* |  This story mentions Captain Wonderpants, an obvious “take off” of Captain Underpants. The interactive book has good quality narration. After text is read, if you press a word, it will be spoken. |
| Wubbzy’s Dance Party  \$2.99* |  This story has lots of alliteration and may be interesting for a younger literacy learner. Text is read word by word. After text is read, if you press a word, it will be spoken. Music and sound effects can be turned off. |
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Apps to Support Comprehension





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| YouTube  free |  Many videos for activation of background knowledge. BBC and National Geographic have great channels. Also, many good quality online books read online. |
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| <u>Word Mover</u>  free |  This is an app created for the purpose of writing poetry using word banks. Since you don't have access to all 26 letters, I think a better use of this app would be for work on comprehension at the sentence level. You could choose "My Own Words". Write a sentence and add a word for each word in the sentence. Mix the words up and have the student put the words in an order that makes sense. |
| <u>WWF Together</u>  free |  This is a great, free app that combines pictures, information and music about endangered animals from around the world. It could be used during the activation of background knowledge or the text could be used during the reading portion of guided reading. |
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Apps to Support Print Processing (Silent Reading Fluency)






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| <u>Bingo Song</u>  \$3.99* |  Beware of ads at the beginning and end. The animated BINGO song supports the development of inner speech. |
| <u>Puppet Pals</u>  free |  Free version is limited to fairy tale characters and 3 backdrops, including a castle. Could use to record a reader's theater such as, <u>You Read to Me, I'll Read to You, Very Short Fairy Tales.</u> Repeated readings supports reading fluency. |
| <u>Sing</u>  free |  Karaoke app. You can sing in a duet with someone from around the world for free. |





Word Apps

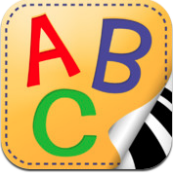
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| <p><u>Making Words Kindergarten and First Grade</u></p>  <p>\$2.99</p> | <p>50 making words lessons based on work of Cunningham and Hall. Does not include sorting or transfer activities.</p> |
| <p><u>Phonics Fun: Long and Short Vowel Sounds</u></p>  <p>\$.99*</p> | <p>★</p> <p>This phonics app concentrates on long and short vowels and well as tracing vowels. The student is asked to tap pictures containing the targeted vowel.</p> |
| <p><u>Phonics Genius</u></p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★</p> <p>Words are organized according to vowels in this app. Talking flashcards are presented and the user can then record his/her voice reading the digital flashcard. Because of regional differences with vowel pronunciations as well as how vowel sound change when combined with various consonants, a focus on vowels could be problematic for most students. There This app might have some benefit for an SLP working on articulation.</p> |
| <p><u>Word Wizard</u></p>  <p>\$4.99*</p> | <p>★★★★★</p> <p>This app is called a talking movable alphabet. It could be used for Making Words activities or used by a student to “play” with letter/sound relationships.</p> |
| <p><u>Sight Words</u></p> | <p>★</p> |

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|  <p>free</p> | <p>This app presents digital talking flashcards at various grade levels. Flashcards work well for testing but not for teaching. This app may be of some benefit if you turn the sound off. You could then use the various lists for testing. You can control the speed of the flashcard by tapping the screen.</p> |
| <p><u>AutoRap</u></p>  <p>free</p> |  <p>Will turn recorded speech into rap. Could use to chant word wall words.</p> |

Alphabet Apps

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| <p><u>ABC Aquarium</u></p>  <p>\$2.99*</p> |  <p>Aquatic animals are categorized according to alphabet letters. Appropriate for young children.</p> |
| <p><u>ABC Go</u></p>  <p>free for limited time</p> |  <p>Vehicles are categorized according to alphabet letters. Definitions with text and spoken text are provided along with videos of some of the vehicles.</p> |
| <p>House <u>ABC</u></p> |  <p>Objects in a house are categorized according to the alphabet. There are several pictures for each word, which is helpful for generalization of vocabulary.</p> |

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|  <p>\$2.99*</p> | <p>There are also videos for the targeted words, but some of them are long and tangential. Because there are many pictures of young children in the app, it is most appropriate for that age group.</p> |
| <p><u>ABC Wildlife</u></p>  <p>\$2.99*</p> | <p>★★★★</p> <p>Wildlife are categorized according to the alphabet. Animals have short descriptions from Wikipedia and some are linked to short videos that would be great for “activating background knowledge”. This app has “Teletubbie” figures that make it most appropriate for younger children.</p> |
| <p><u>ABC Sounds</u></p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★★</p> <p>Alphabet song appropriate for very young children. (Baby, baby, buh, buh, buh) An ad to buy the pro version on each page.</p> |
| <p><u>Endless ABC</u></p>  <p>free</p> | <p>★★★</p> <p>Need to close an ad to start the app. Words that start with each alphabet letter are displayed. The letters are scattered with a template of the word in the middle of the page. The task is to match each letter by moving the letters to the template. As each letter is touched, the letter sound is spoken. When a correct match is made, the letter name is spoken. After the word is completed, there is an animation and spoken definition of the word. The “c” words, for example, are courage and cooperate. I think that that the animated vocabulary would only be useful with context. If you happen to be reading a book about courage, the animated example might be helpful for some students.</p> |
| <p><u>Wee Sing</u></p> | <p>★★★★</p> <p>ABC song. Also a song with an animation of an animal playing an instrument for each letter of the alphabet.</p> |

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|  <p>\$2.99*</p> | <p>Also several other alphabet activities. Appropriate for a young child.</p> |
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* These apps were free from [AppsGonefree](#) for a limited time.



**These apps were free from [Free App Friday](#) for a limited time.