



iPad Apps for Children with Special Needs and/or Visual Impairment

Compiled by Partners for Pediatric Vision
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This list represents recommended apps from parents, teachers of the blind and visually impaired, early interventionists, speech pathologists, deaf-blind educators and a variety of websites.

Visually Stimulating Apps

Infant Zoo: Baby Sensory Game-High-contrast Illustrations, engaging animal sounds, animations and stimulating by treebetty LLC for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

[Infant Zoo: Baby Sensory Game on the App Store](#)

Infant Faces: Baby Fun-High Contrast Images for Babies.

By treebetty LLC for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Mac

[Infant Faces: Baby Stimulation on the App Store](#)

Onni & Ilona: Happy Animals-Designed to support early development of vision

[Onni & Ilona: Happy Animals on the App Store](#)

Bubbles by Jesse Grosjean (see description in CVI section) for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Mac

[Bubbles on the App Store](#)

Infant + Instantly Sooth & Calm-Sensory Sounds & Stimulation

By Dynamic App Design LLC

[Infant+ Instantly Sooth & Calm on the App Store](#)

Early Cause and Effect Apps (child can touch anywhere on the iPad to get a response)

iLoveFireworks- *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Fireworks Games for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch

For children with no vision the joy is in the sounds. The pops, bangs and explosions are exciting and with the sound turned up to maximum you can actually feel the iPad vibrate a little with each bang.

For children with some vision, the lights of the fireworks are bright and contrast perfectly with the all-black background. This would be a lot of fun to play with in the dark and would be great app for kids with CVI!

[iLoveFireworks on the App Store](#)

Fun Fireworks by Matthew Tomlinson for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Apple Vision

[Fun Fireworks on the App Store](#)

Fluidity HD by nebula design for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac, and Apple Vision

[Fluidity HD on the App Store](#)

Talking Carl *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Tayasui for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch

Blind and low vision users will delight in interacting with Carl because it's easy—just speak and laugh—and does not require learning how to hold the iPad or interact with the screen. Carl may also be beneficial to teaching children with autism about the back-and-forth aspect of communication: you say something, pause, and then Carl says something (repeats what you said, actually), etc. There are several different apps available that are a variation on Talking Carl. The reason why Carl is great for low vision users is because he presents as a simple, squarish figure who is red, and he is set against a simple background. For children with Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI), the color red is attractive. They will also benefit from the uncluttered visual display.

[Talking Carl on the App Store](#)

Sensory Light Box *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Cognable for iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, and Mac

Sensory Light Box is based on a very simple idea... when your finger is on the screen cool things happen, and when you stop touching the screen the cool things stop. That's pretty much it, but the app is done so beautifully and is so easy to use that you can't help but feel that there's much more going on.

[Sensory Light Box on the App Store](#)

Sensory Sound Box *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Cognable for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad

Sensory Sound Box is a lot like Sensory Light Box with the simple idea that when your finger is touching the screen neat things happen and when you lift your finger they stop. But in the sound version of this app as your finger moves across the screen the sounds take on very different characteristics.

[Sensory Sound Box on the App Store](#)

Cause and Effect Apps that Require Directed Touch

Pocket Pond by TriggerWave for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision

Raise, feed, play with, and sell thousands of different kinds of koi. Decorate your pond and make it beautiful!

[Pocket Ponds on the App Store](#)

Peekaboo Barn by Night and Day Studios, Inc., for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad

See review in CVI section

[Peekaboo Barn on the App Store](#)

Elmo loves ABC's by Sesame Street for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad

[Elmo Loves ABCs on the App Store](#)

Onni & Ilona: Happy Shapes-Designed to support early development of fine motor and visual object recognition skills. By Pintxo for iPhone, iPod touch, Mac and iPad

[Onni & Ilona: Happy Shapes on the App Store](#)

Cause and Effect Apps that Require Directed Touch and Specific Responses

Five Sharks Swimming *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Inclusive Technology Ltd for iPad, Mac, and Apple Vision

Five Sharks Swimming is a counting game that offers a few different levels of difficulty. In the first game, "Song," one shark swims in a pond while a song is played. The song stops and your child simply taps (or smacks) the screen to get the song to continue. This is a wonderful beginner's counting game and also teaches cause-and-effect.

In "Counting Activities," you have three choices: Counting Up, Counting Along a Number Line or Counting in Sets. In Counting Up a shark card outlined in red appears and your child

has to tap it to hear the sharks counted. The flashing red outline helps children with low vision find the shark. Counting Along a Number Line is a similar game but all five sharks appear on the screen at the same time and your child has to choose them in order. The last game, Counting in Sets, is the

most complicated. Your child is given sets of sharks and asked to identify the correct set.

[Five Sharks Swimming on the App Store](#)

Itsy Bitsy Spider HD by DuckDuck Moose for iPhone and iPod touch

[Itsy Bitsy Spider - Easter Egg on the App Store](#)

Apps Developed for Children with CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment)

Tap-n-See Zoo *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Little Bear Sees for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Mac and Apple Vision

Tap-n-See Zoo, the game is simple: Watch an animal slowly and gracefully bounce across the screen. Touch the animal to make it stop and grow to fill almost the entire screen. You'll also hear a reward sound (laughter, applause, a slide whistle, etc), so you get a nice combination of a visual and audio feedback when you "win." Different options allow you to play with color combinations and decipher which colors your child responds to most. Use Tap-n-See Zoo to help your child learn to track moving objects or recognize colors; use their vision in a simple and non-cluttered environment; or learn about cause and effect.

[Tap-n-See Now on the App Store](#)

Peekaboo Barn App *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*

By Night & Day Studios, Inc. for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and Mac

Why it's good for visually impaired children:

For a child with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) this app is fantastic! Consider that children with CVI tend to favor the colors red and yellow and high-contrast images. Movement can help grab their attention. Peekaboo Barn has a red barn, with white trim and the barn moves by hopping up and down. This is a great way to teach your child how to focus and use the visual information they're gathering.

[Peekaboo Barn Lite on the App Store](#)

Bubbles By Jesse Grosjean Software for iPhone, iPod Touch

Using Bubbles is not really a game, but more of an engaging and relaxing way to pass time interacting with your child and allowing them the opportunity to become accustomed to tracking objects with their functional vision.

[Bubbles on the App Store](#)

Big Bang Patterns by Inclusive Technology Ltd for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision. Developed In conjunction with specialist teachers in the field of visual impairments, designed for students with low vision, including those with CVI and complex needs.

[Big Bang Patterns on the App Store](#)

EDA Play by EDA cz, z. u. for iPad.

[EDA PLAY on the App Store](#)

Story Apps on the iPad that are Visual, Auditory and Interactive

The Monster at the End of this Book starring Grover! by Sesame Workshops (Apps) for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch

[The Monster at the End... on the App Store](#)

Dr. Seuss's ABC-Read & Learn by Oceanhouse Media for iPhone, iPod Touch and Mac

[Dr. Seuss's ABC - Read & Learn on the App Store](#)

EDA PLAY PAULI by EDA cz, z. u. for iPad and Apple Vision

[EDA PLAY PAULI on the App Store](#)

Augmentative Communication Apps

Proloquo2go by AssistiveWare for iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch

[Proloquo2Go AAC on the App Store](#)

Bridge Communication by Bioprism, Inc. for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision

[BRIDGE Communication on the App Store](#)

Apps to Encourage Tracking and Reading Skills

Visual Attention Therapy by Tactus Solutions Ltd, <http://tactustherapy.com>

Goal Areas: Visual Scanning, Reading, Visual Attention, Sustained Attention, Memory Helps: Left Neglect, Hemianopsia, Unilateral Inattention, Right Neglect, Dyslexia, Slow Readers, Brain Injury, Stroke, Pre- reading students

[Visual Attention Therapy on the App Store](#)

Starfall ABCs by Starfall Education Foundation for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Mac

[Starfall ABCs on the App Store](#)

First Phonics by Bricks Education for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple Vision and Mac

[First Phonics on the App Store](#)

Hairy Letters by Nessy Learning Limited for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple Vision and Mac

[Hairy Letters on the App Store](#)

Monkey Word School Adventures by THUP Games for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Mac

[Monkey Word School Adventure on the App Store](#)

Word Wagon by Duck Duck Mosse by Duck Duck Moose LLC for iPhone and iPod touch

[Word Wagon by Duck Duck Moose on the App Store](#)

Apps for Low Vision Middle and High School Students to Help with Homework Assignments

Bits Board by Happy Moose Apps for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision

[Bitsboard Flashcards & Games on the App Store](#)

Brighter Bigger by Kazunori Asada iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision

[Brighter and Bigger on the App Store](#)

Elmo's 123 by Sesame Workshop (Apps) for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch

[Elmo Loves 123s on the App Store](#)

Math Robot by American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Apple Vision

[Math Robot™ on the App Store](#)

Seeing AI by Microsoft Corporation for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

[Seeing AI on the App Store](#)

Story Builder by Narrative Skill Builder for iPad and Mac

[StoryBuilder for iPad on the App Store](#)

Talking Scientific Calculator by Adam Croser for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision

[Talking Scientific Calculator on the App Store](#)

Voice Dream-Text to Voice by Voice Dream LLC for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple Watch and Apple Vision

[Voice Dream - Text to Voice on the App Store](#)

Object Identification Apps

Seeing AI by Microsoft Corporation for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

A tool to assist with a variety of daily tasks like description of photos, scanning barcodes, recognizing currency notes, identifying colors and much more.

[Seeing AI on the App Store](#)

Be My Eyes by Be My Eyes for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch. An app to get visual description when needed by connecting to representatives to help with their products.

[Be My Eyes on the App Store](#)

TapTapSee by Cloudsight, Inc. for iPhone, iPod touch, Mac and Apple Vision. Designed to help the blind and visually Impaired Identify objects In everyday life.

[TapTapSee on the App Store](#)

Special Needs Apps for Children with a Variety of Learning Challenges

Wonder Baby Website for parents of children with visual impairment that includes detailed iPad app reviews. <https://www.wonderbaby.org/>

California Deaf-Blind Services has resources for children with vision and hearing impairments. <https://cadeafblind.org/>

RJ Cooper makes special software and hardware products for persons with special needs including individual consultation and assessment in person or over the phone. <https://store.rjcooper.com/>

Digitally Recorded Textbooks, Literature, and Podcasts

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BookShare: Easy-to-read audiobooks and ebooks for learners of all abilities. www.bookshare.org

AirsLA- Audio Internet Reading Service of Los Angeles. www.airsla.org

Epic-Kids' Books and Reading by Epic Creations, Inc. for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch
Audio books for kids and print.

[Epic - Kids' Books & Reading on the App Store](#)

Audible: Audio Entertainment by Audible, Inc. for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple Watch
Audiobooks, podcasts and Audible originals.

[Audible: Audio Entertainment on the App Store](#)

Organizations or Individuals Who Provide Technology Assistance

EMPOWERTECH is Los Angeles County's only non-profit organization devoted to bringing the latest in assistive technology to children and adults living with disabilities.

<https://www.empowertech.org/>

Goodwill Assistive Technology Exchange Center 1601 E. St. Andrew Place
Santa Ana, CA 92705 A TEC@ocgoodwill.org 714 361-6200
<https://www.ocgoodwill.org/disabilities-services/>

Ability Tools is California's Assistive Technology Act Program. They provide a variety of services for Californians with disabilities of all ages.

<https://abilitytools.org/>

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