

App Ratings: October 2012

These comments were provided by participants at the presentation: There's an app for that by Lu-Anne McFarlane at the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Annual Conference, Calgary AB.

These comments were provided after a short opportunity to explore the app. As apps undergo frequent updates, some of the comments may not be current.

<p><b>Alphatots: by Spinlight</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fun and engaging</li> <li>-Like how vowels give both sounds</li> <li>-Uses blends rather than single sounds (x2)</li> <li>-Nice appropriate vocab</li> <li>-Good action demonstration (x2)</li> <li>-Like how it goes beyond sound-letter awareness by providing word and action</li> <li>-Good reinforcement that relates to activity (x2)</li> <li>-Great sound letter correspondence with a great activity associated with it</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Would like more examples of words with each letter (x2)</li> <li>-Would like to be able to choose your own letter (not necessarily go in order)</li> <li>-Would be nice to be given examples of words with short and long vowels</li> <li>-Turn taking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Articulation IV: by Learning Fundamentals</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Beautiful pictures, however it is often not intuitive what the target word is</li> <li>-Language level becomes too advanced</li> <li>-More control needed over sound position to practice</li> <li>-This app is bad</li> <li>-Not a functional or valid therapy tool</li> <li>-At least it was real photos, but it had the wrong sounds in the sound group (e.g., 'f' coming up in 's' category) (x4)</li> <li>-Targets depicted would be inappropriate for children</li> <li>-Not recommended</li> <li>-Target wasn't always clear from the picture (x2)</li> <li>-Single word stage should match sound selection</li> <li>-Horrible pictures</li> <li>-Not intuitive</li> <li>-Pictures didn't match target goals</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p>

	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be nice if the pictures did something (not static)</li> <li>-Does not do isolation</li> <li>-It has the wrong target sounds in the sound group (e.g., 'f' coming up in 's' category) (x4)</li> </ul>
<b>Articulate It!: by Smarty Ears Apps</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Took a long time to get into it</li> <li>-Great to use real pictures (x4)</li> <li>-Like the control over sounds to practice and position</li> <li>-Like how you can select target words in the phoneme section</li> <li>-Good selection of words</li> <li>-Like that you can choose words, phrase option</li> <li>-Love rotate option</li> <li>-Would take a long time to set up for individual person</li> <li>-Why do you need a birthdate?</li> <li>-Vocab too high for young kids</li> <li>-Kind of boring</li> <li>-Like that it includes phonological processes (x4)</li> <li>-Difficult to organize for students</li> <li>-Feedback was nice</li> <li>-Recording was easy to do and sound quality was good (x2)</li> <li>-No different than a picture book as far as engagement</li> <li>-Like that you can use with more than one client at a time</li> <li>-Only effective if the child has someone giving feedback in the moment</li> </ul>
	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Good for SLP to probe</li> </ul>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-“Phrases” are actually sentences-need an in-between level (e.g., 2 word phrase) (x3)</li> <li>-Want to upload own pictures/words</li> <li>-Customize</li> <li>-Option of adding own words</li> </ul>
<b>BB Magic#1: by Learning Touch</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p>
	<p>Recommendations:</p>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-For pronunciation audio, you should do onset + rhyme (e.g., 'm' + 'at', not 'm'+ 'a' +'t')</li> </ul>
<b>Bobo and Light: by Game Collage</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Liked that videos were incorporated into the “text”</li> <li>-Very interactive</li> <li>-Humor included</li> <li>-For higher level students</li> <li>-Factual</li> <li>-Some areas are quite visually busy (not for visually impaired)</li> </ul>

	<p>students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Great visuals</li> </ul>
	<p>Recommendations:</p>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We'd like more videos</li> <li>-The icon doesn't do the app justice</li> <li>-Include website links to explore resources further</li> </ul>
<b>Cookie Doodle: by Shoe the Goose</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-So many ways to use this app</li> <li>-A nice social communication tool</li> <li>-Very flexible</li> </ul>
	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can use with small group</li> </ul>
<b>Fun with Directions: by Hamaguchi apps</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Jumps in level of complexity (e.g., 1 direction to 3, back to 1)</li> <li>-Choices in complexity aren't discrete enough</li> <li>-Concepts are limited</li> <li>-More testing than teaching</li> <li>-Long instructions for simplistic concepts</li> <li>-Great use of colors</li> <li>-Limited target concepts (x4)</li> <li>-Need good visual scanning (x2)</li> <li>-Doesn't really focus on what it says</li> <li>-Only 3 levels with large differences in difficulty</li> <li>-Some concepts are cause and effect, not really an understanding of the concept targeted (x2)</li> <li>-Unclear regarding what type of response is required (e.g., touch, tap, drag...)</li> <li>-Playback feature is fantastic</li> <li>-Lots of different activities</li> </ul>
	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Would need external speakers or SmartBoard to use in group setting</li> </ul>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be nice to choose different levels</li> </ul>
<b>First Phrases: by Hamaguchi apps</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A bit difficult to involve a partner</li> <li>-We liked how individualized it is, with repetitions, sentence type...</li> <li>-No feedback regarding what the child says or whether it was right/wrong</li> <li>-Expressive task capabilities as well as receptive</li> <li>-Like the flexibility to incorporate turn taking and play partners</li> <li>-The recording portion had no visual cues and seemed disjointed</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A tool for sentence construction that would be boring quickly</li> <li>-Cannot use pronouns</li> <li>-It's too vague for it's expectations of the client (lack of interaction and reward)</li> <li>-Voice seems unnatural</li> <li>-Characters are nice</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be great to have the animation do something different if the child said it wrong</li> <li>-Could the words appear as the recording plays back?</li> </ul>
<p><b>First Words: by Hamaguchi apps</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Efficient-if you're using an app to teach vocab, it's a pretty good one</li> <li>-Text on is a good feature</li> <li>-Busy screen</li> <li>-Basic vocabulary</li> <li>-Repetition</li> <li>-Very decontextualized (x2)</li> <li>-Not a great way to learn vocabulary</li> <li>-Voice may be difficult for hearing impaired kids</li> <li>-Like that you can customize to your voice</li> <li>-Need to have really accurate touch target</li> <li>-Hard to respond naturalistically</li> <li>-Need to focus on device</li> <li>-Can do lots of repetitions quickly</li> <li>-A lot of additional unneeded language</li> <li>-Multiple exemplars of each items (generalizing)</li> <li>-Similar to flashcards</li> <li>-Errors-no sound feedback (x2)</li> <li>-Not functional, no context</li> <li>-Liked that it asked a question</li> <li>-Brings us back to 'flashcard' therapy</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Should separate expressive and receptive task scores</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Turn off sound to make it able to integrate communication partner</li> <li>-Instead of repeating after touching ear, have it automatically repeat after 3 seconds</li> <li>-Would be more engaging if you had toys present</li> <li>-Explore app to see what it can do</li> <li>-You need to facilitate the interaction in order to make it a meaningful educational experience for a young child</li> </ul>
<p><b>Going Places: by Model Me Kids</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Didn't follow convention of writing social stories</li> <li>-Boring and dull</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Doesn't address emotional concerns children have in these situations</li> <li>-Good natural picture but couldn't change anything (x2)</li> <li>-Less customizable than other apps doing similar things (x2)</li> <li>-Not as engaging</li> <li>-Sound would be nice</li> <li>-Nice that it has daily routines</li> <li>-Easy to use (x2)</li> <li>-Uses positive statements</li> </ul>
<b>Linguistystem Phonology: by Linguistystems</b>	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be good to have the same child pictured</li> <li>-Would love to see more scenarios (x2)</li> <li>-Would be nice to manipulate text and picture sequences</li> </ul> <p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We like it, but expensive</li> <li>-Love the pinch in/out feature</li> <li>-Nice pictures</li> <li>-Confusing symbols on page, not intuitive</li> <li>-Like the scoring system (and that clinician scores it)</li> <li>-Like using own voice</li> <li>-Like minimal pairs function and receptive aspect (x2)</li> <li>-Like that you can skip words</li> <li>-It's sort of individualized, but not enough</li> <li>-Like the amount of choice for words/options</li> <li>-User friendly for clinician and child (x2)</li> <li>-Common vocabulary</li> <li>-Cannot select targets (e.g., Fronting as a process with all sounds as examples, not just 'k' vs 't') (x2)</li> <li>-Measures correct responses which could be emailed to SLP</li> <li>-Like auditory bombardment option</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be nice to pick the level (e.g., phrase, sentence)</li> <li>-Have photo option of real objects</li> <li>-Upload own pictures</li> <li>-Would like to see more ways to play with minimal pairs</li> <li>-Splitting the two pictures apart would be engaging</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Could assign as home practice</li> </ul>
<b>My Play Home</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nice addition of rooms and different races represented</li> <li>-So many cool things you can do/work on with this app</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Please create the same type of app for school, grocery story, hospital, etc</li> </ul>
<b>Noodle Words: by Noodle Works Interactive</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Love the animation and flexibility of the words (e.g., the -ing</li> </ul>

	<p>ending)          -Very fun          -Multi-use (x2)          -Lots of movement and things to do that underscore the meaning of the word</p>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:          -Looking forward to new vocabulary (x3)          -Would be nice to choose your own words          -Clients can interact and do the actions</p>
<p><b>Pat the Cat: by Brightside</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:          -Uses predicting and inferential          -Many examples          -Good visuals          -Good rate of speech          -Nice descriptions of functions          -Simple for early learners</p>
	<p>Recommendations:</p>
<p><b>Peek A Boo Barn: by Night &amp; Day Studios</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:          -The adult would need to control/restrict access to create an interaction and prevent ‘whamming’          -Simple, intuitive, quick to learn          -Can use/target functional vocabulary (e.g., open/close)          -Child voice: mispronunciation of ‘sheep’, an ESL parent may not recognize error and child may repeat inappropriately (x3)          -Immediate reinforcement          -Okay for vocab development          -Fun          -Engaging format. Would need to modify to make it an interaction (e.g., mute app)          -Not too overwhelming, cues child to touch          -Liked the simplicity          -Good cause/effect app (x3)</p>
	<p>Developer recommendations:          -There should be no speech errors in verbal mode</p>
	<p>Recommendations:          -Adult could individualize this with creativity and planning          -Turn volume off and include another communication partner to make the app more socially interactive          -Use actual photo of a barn to make it more naturalistic          -Therapist could adapt the language and level for the child</p>
<p><b>Peek A Zoo: by Duck</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p>

<b>Duck Moose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Only 1 level?</li> </ul>
<b>Pictello: by AssistiveWare</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Awesome-especially for functionality and adapting to your own clientele/setting</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p>
<b>Sentence Builder: by Mobile Education</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hard to modify/go back to settings when in app (x3)</li> <li>-Verbal reinforcement is nice</li> <li>-High literacy required (x3)</li> <li>-Focus is decoding rather than verbal production</li> <li>-It's not effective/meaningful to teach tenses with still illustrations</li> <li>-Pictures are awful and not related to sentences (x3)</li> <li>-No feedback as to the error (x2)</li> <li>-Not visually engaging, small words</li> <li>-Cannot choose sentence parts to target (x3)</li> <li>-Sentence not functional</li> <li>-Data is not specific other than right/wrong/# of attempts</li> <li>-Not recommended (x2)</li> <li>-Not appropriate for children with LD</li> <li>-Options overwhelming (would be better to wor only one at a time i.e., is/are)</li> <li>-Sentence content not even practical...not funny, too silly</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It would be nice the picture did what the sentence says (x2)</li> <li>-Would be better to select targets for language items (e.g., pronouns)</li> <li>-Bigger print</li> <li>-Show what part was right</li> <li>-Would be nice to have option to simplify or focus on one element (e.g., just the subject)</li> <li>-Text to speechhelp</li> </ul>
<b>Speech With Milo: Sequencing</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can see this getting old quickly</li> <li>-Multi-purpose</li> <li>-Ease of use</li> <li>-Don't like artificial voice</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Would like to see different stages (2-5 steps)</li> <li>-Add more interaction</li> <li>-Voice-prosody should be more natural</li> </ul>
<b>Sock Puppets: by Smithmicro Software</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Kids wouldn't know what to say for a story task-higher level kids</li> <li>-Not focused, but could use for so many things (x3)</li> <li>-Relies on clinician input for applicability and setting parameters</li> </ul>

	<p>(x2)</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Great for auditory feedback (articulation)</li> <li>-Opportunity for social practice</li> <li>-Older kids could use in small groups independently</li> <li>-Would rather do this in real life</li> <li>-Encourages turn taking</li> </ul>
<b>Stories2Learn</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Spelling errors in the text</li> <li>-Prefer short but grammatical phrases</li> <li>-Like the real pictures and simple ideas (x3)</li> <li>-Like the editing option (x2)</li> <li>-Excellent-dynamic</li> <li>-You can make your own story frames</li> <li>-Nice, quick way to create your own stories for specific clients (x2)</li> <li>-Great extension for parents</li> <li>-Eliminates need for time-consuming prep</li> <li>-Stores many stories</li> <li>-Facial expressions in some pictures don't match the narrative</li> <li>-Versatile app</li> <li>-Dull photos</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Would be great on a SmartBoard for the whole class</li> </ul>
<b>StoryPatch: by Haywood Software</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Takes a little time figure it out (ie, how to enter pics) (x2)</li> <li>-Fantastic and easy to use</li> <li>-Fast and effective way to make up a story</li> <li>-Can be sent home (great for carryover!)</li> <li>-Great price!</li> <li>-My favourite app</li> <li>-Kids can be involved in story creating</li> <li>-Potential for targeting lots of S-L goals</li> <li>-Love the flexibility and ability to bring in real photos</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can use for kids who are not good at illustrating or writing</li> </ul>
<b>You're the Storyteller: The Surprise</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We really like it!</li> <li>-Liked question prompts, that you can pause story, the writing area, and that you can speak and/or write</li> <li>-Multi-purpose (vocab, fluency)</li> <li>-Not modifiable</li> <li>-Good for personal narratives/retell reading, body language, perspective talking</li> <li>-Questions are at a high language level</li> <li>-Cute, great pics, engaging</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lots of potential targets</li> <li>-Story is recorded and can also be typed in writing space</li> <li>-Very easy to use</li> <li>-Appreciate the info section</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can use as a class, brainstorm events/generate questions (x2)</li> <li>-Would be great for a wide age range of clients (x2)</li> <li>-Could use for language/narrative sample</li> <li>-Could be used for group teaching on SMART Board</li> </ul> <p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Please make more stories (x3)</li> <li>-Have shorter stories as an option</li> </ul>
<b>Toca Tea Party: by Toca Boca</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We like it!</li> <li>-Lots of possibilities</li> <li>-Great for travelling SLPs</li> <li>-Requires communication partners or pretend toys</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Can use for asking/answering questions, first/next/last, choices, tenses, grammar (I am, is+verb-ing), same/different, requesting</li> </ul>
<b>Van Gogh and the Sunflowers: By Stories Alive</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hard to know which age its for</li> <li>-Same concepts for brush width</li> <li>-Descriptive</li> <li>-Very animated and interactive</li> <li>-Creative</li> <li>-Can use imagination</li> <li>-Good for retelling</li> <li>-Good rate of speech</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Good for kid with poor hand grip to do actual art</li> </ul>
<b>Verbs News: by Virtual Speech Center</b>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Didn't like same pictures for all tenses</li> <li>-The pictures did not match the verb tense (x3)</li> <li>-Too many instructions! Complex for younger students. (x3)</li> <li>-Love the video recording option</li> <li>-Don't like the practice pictures</li> <li>-We were disengaged listening to the instructions (too long/too complex)...instructions higher level than language level of kids</li> <li>-Only the video option is interactive, but don't need an app for that</li> <li>-Parts of the app are more engaging/functional than others</li> <li>-Best part is the news function (don't need app for that) (x2)</li> <li>-More likely to use personal news cast for things other than app target of verbs</li> <li>-Not enough examples</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-OK for adult ESL</li> <li>-Potential for fluency students</li> <li>-Good for verbal expression practice</li> <li>-Can record yourself past tense on the iPad-don't need app to do that</li> </ul>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Need different pictures for past, present, future (x2)</li> <li>-When talking about working in the past, the cartoon should stop walking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Five Little Monkeys Wash The Car: by Oceanhouse Media</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Good cadence of storyteller</li> </ul>
	<p>Developer Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Car parts should be labeled, not called "icky" or "sticky"</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wheels on the Bus: by Duck Duck Moose</b></p>	<p>Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-We like the cause effect activities and the ability to either tae song off or record your own song</li> <li>-Multiple uses and ages</li> </ul>
	<p>Recommendations:</p>