

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

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

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

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

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

	<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>Pat the Cat: by Brightside</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>Peek A Boo Barn: by Night & Day Studios</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>Peek A Zoo: by Duck</p>	<p>Evaluation:</p>

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

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

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

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