

# My favourite Apps for very special learners

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## Introduction

You will need an ipod touch ( no need to have the telephone component) or a splendid ipad.

The apps for very special learners I have listed are all free or about 59p

### To find an app

Go to the Itunes store and click on 'apps' ( at top of the screen) and then type in the title you wish to view or purchase. You need to have an account with itunes so when you buy an app it is paid for through the account, without hassle.

[www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)

### Handy hints for the uninitiated

- You need to be online to go to the itunes store.
- itunes store should be listed in the left hand column on the screen of your device. Click on and then look along the top of the page to find applications.
- Always play with the apps and find out what they can do ( or ask a child to do this whilst you watch!)they do so much more than you think.
- Make sure that if it is a free app, it does not pop up with free offers or annoying adverts every time you use it. Not worth the trouble. Delete.

Here is a list of 50 of my favourite apps to use for creative and engaging encounters of the active kind, and , in no order, but all very sensory and loads of fascinating fun for everybody! Enjoy!

This is my first attempt at doing a web page so feed back appreciated!

I am busy putting together a dvd of a hundred more apps but they will be grouped together for curriculum, assessment, age related, rudeness etc and will have video clips included of the apps in action-watch this space!

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### Uzu

One of the best apps ever. Described as a 'kinetic multi touch particle visualiser' but don't let that put you off! Tiny particles that whizz, spin and splatter, like iron filings on a magnet, absorbing. You can change the colour, speed and directions of the particles. Try just pressing a finger for a while, and see splendid whizzing particles flying from the finger tip.



### Pyromania

Loved by all, shooting and exploding firework displays ~an intense firework display with strong firework sounds~touch and move finger to make a rocket or firework ignite. Fascinating, especially those with autism. Mesmerizing!

### I love fireworks

Another firework app, but the noises are more dramatic especially the big bangs. Different array of fireworks too. 3D graphics.



### Koi pond

Oldie but goodie, lovely water sounds and friendly fish, great for sustained concentration. You can choose to add to the pond setting, try a thunderstorm with raindrops on the water and thunder in the background, awesome!



### Fish fingers-3D interactive aquarium

Similar to koi pond except you can put your own photo in the background. Tilt the screen for the water in the jar and fish to move around the image! You can put in new fish.



### Balls

Lovely harp sounds linked to moving paint balls that move around when dragged with a finger or nose. The balls fall under gravity, rebound off the sides and when they collide, they create harmonious music.



### Rubber ducky

Garish spotted ducks that give really loud intense quacks when touched~great. Then you can change to plucky, stripy, spotty ducks.....



### Bobble zoo

Great fun, chose an animal and it appears with a wobbly head and the name is spoken with a child's voice, great for attention grabbing and prolonged gaze. Cause and effect as the head bobbles more if it is shaken more.



### Bloom

So relaxing, harp music as the glow balls gently bob around and make gorgeous images as you make the balls move into abstract art images. Part instruments, part composition and part art work. Move the balls quickly and the tempo increases accordingly.



### Lekar

A free app from IKEA full of delightful animations and games to play such as 'statues' or 'follow the leader' all with music. They update on a regular basis and put new animations on too.



### Lines and flowers

Nice erratic (nearly said erotic then!) thick black lines that constantly track from different angles across the screen. Then a coloured flower randomly drifts across one of the black lines, randomly. Use for advanced tracking and crossing of the eye midline. Music & motion graphics.



### Splode

Ranked number 1 in 12 countries. Very simple level with little fuzzy glowing splode creatures to track and touch. They go plop when you touch them. A very first level of game., There are levels of complexity with an electronic noise background, space like sounds.



### Ooze

Stunning fluorescent colours, looks like the screen is a lava lamp. Coloured ooze moves and changes with finger movements. No sound but this is good, you concentrate on the finger work and do some physics too.



### Bubble Magic

Simple luminous moving bubbles that go pop when touched, super. Drag fingertips to create more. You can choose from a variety of backgrounds on which to make bubbles and then pop them. If you hold your finger on the bubble it gets bigger and bigger...and then goes pop. Lots of cause and effect and tracking.



### Spawn Glow

Fabulous quick moving lines of colour, controlled by a finger tip. Manipulate vibrant beams of colour just like a rave light show-great for teenagers.

### Colour Spin

This is just a screen of one glowing colour which changes to different glowing colours as it is rotated. I find it useful as it can come very near to eyes, that do not see much, or for assessment.



### Crazy Face

This is a selection of full screen sized, very colourful monster faces. Parts of the face slowly move. Good for facial awareness and showing emotions. As you talk the face matches your words, hold in front of your face, screen to the audience, and talk, for a dramatic effect! You can get pirates and pumpkin face apps too.

### BLtickle

Just a simple face drawing but when you tap it, there are lovely baby noises coming out, with suitable facial expressions. A lovely two-way intensive communication aid. I like the simplicity of this app.



### Glow Draw

Fluorescent colours, amazing to use in the dark, draw or tap with finger. You can adjust to make thick or thin lines, different colour choices, put in a photo background and more. Can be saved or sent in an email. A convenient way to build a portfolio of 'mark making'.



### Smack talk

My grandchildren love this one. Hilarious! Choose an animal and a voice pitch, then talk to the hamster, for example. It goes from freaky to squeaky. The animal repeats what you say in a choice of funny voices! Lovely for 'call and response' or pre-intentional communication levels.



### Atomic Fart

The title says it all, great for students. The descriptions of the farts are delightful such as 'spark plug' or 'short and sweet'. They can be timed, so anticipation can help with memory retention!



### Burp and fart piano

You have a choice of two pianos, one plays farts and the other burps in descending scales. The sound is awesome and so loudly rude.....



### Newtonica Player

A very simple app which offers futuristic noise and special effects. Simple to use just touch the spinning colour ball on the screen. Plays minimal techno effects by Kenjii Eno.



### Pocket guitar

Ace for students, you can choose the guitar you want, try the ukelele too. From simple plucks to classic guitar music can be created. Many different scales, pitch and for every level from unintentional plucks to the full concert effect.



### Rattle

This is described as a baby rattle toy but is much more than that. Loud noises that are unpredictable and screen images appear and cheer and scream the more you tap. When you stop tapping then the images slow and fade away as does the noise. I like the unpredictability of this one, it is errorless learning. They also do a Christmas rattle which is very loud and full of the joys of Christmas.....



### Noise room

Open and choose a noise room such as the crowd room, transportation, human sounds or excitement room. Then there are choices within a room e.g yee hoo! You did it! are found in the Excitement room. The quality of the sound is very good. Great for listening to emotional sounds and phrases as part of emotional literacy.



### Jingle Tunes

Just for fun. Choose a song on the screen such as 'dance of the sugar plum fairy' and play the jingle bells as you tap or shake the screen, jolly fun! Then little dancing stick people appear and dance to the bells too, so cute!



### Glee

Karaoke at its most awful best. You record the singing, put in the pitch and harmony and off you go. You need speakers and a mike for this one but the singing can be recorded for posterity. Number 1 app in 21 countries. You can go online and karaoke with the whole world!

### I Hear You

This app can be heard in a variety of languages such as Chinese or Spanish. Choose a topic such as 'African animals' or 'transportation', a range of pictures appear. Touch one and hear the word and sound.



### White Noise Baby

This is for getting babies to sleep and has potential for calming the over anxious or stressed child or student. There is a list of noises which can be used such as a vacuum cleaner, car ride, grandfather clock or bells. There is also white, pink or brown noise. These noises have been used for the learner with autism to calm and also block out sounds in the environment. White noise combines all the different frequencies of sound, together.

### Idaft2



Just for students, trendy punk beat with added background. You just press a phrase and the phrase is jingled back to you, can press the same word for a new effect. Really noisy and irritating to adults! The words are from two hit singles 'technologig' & 'harder better faster stronger'

### Draw with Stars



Magical sounds and stars trail across the screen to your finger touch. The size of the stars can be changed, colours and spin sequences changed as well. The star drawings can be sent by email, twitter etc. Shake to remove the stars or use the broom image.

### Face melter

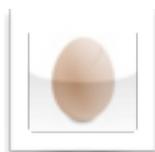


Lots of fun, go to your photo library and choose an image by tapping the toolbar in left hand corner. Then use your finger to tap or stretch the image to distort it, or use three fingers at once to twist in any direction. Just like the hall of mirrors at the fairground.

### Anemoma

A very simple use of the ipad, on the screen appears a pile of vivid tentacles, they look like sea anemones, just shake and tilt the screen to get an awesome floating mass of moving blue colours. You can adjust the number of tentacle on the screen.

### Hatch! Plus



The simplest 'cause and effect' app. An egg appears, just tap and after a few noisy cracks appear something emerges from the broken egg.

### Jelly Doodle



Lots of junky food fun (down with healthy eating at this point) as you make an animated jelly, with many sound effects. Choose the mould, fill with food, add the jelly, put on sprinkles. You can make it grow bigger until it explodes! Make a real jelly to compliment the electronic exploding one.....

### Cookie Doodle



Similar to the jelly one but amazing when you can roll the pastry out on the screen, cut up the ingredients with a knife and put into the bowl to stir. Really amazing with sound effects and very creative. You can make the real cookies afterwards as recipes are given.

### AlphaBabyfree



Just a plain screen which you touch, and up pops a random letter or number, with the word spoken as it appears. Large bright coloured lettering bounce.



### Sensory Play

Devised by a mum with a very special son, excellent. Just a set of sensory 'card' ideas to use whilst out and about such a son a car journey. Simple sensory activities to suit every child.



### Doodle Buddy

Smashing art activity or mark making at any level. Lots of choice of colour or stamps to stamp on the screen. There is a noise to accompany each mark e.g.. a dog barks, then the noise of eating as the dog bone is stamped. The images can be saved and put in a portfolio. You can connect onto the internet, with a friend, and doodle together online!



### Painting Animals

A more conventional 'colour the picture' but the pictures are photos with the animal faded out ( choose the level of faintness). Use a finger to paint or just pull on a line across the bottom so it fills in itself. Save to Iphoto.



### Draw Free

A simple drawing app but with nice thick lines, stampers and an eraser if needed. The pencils appear on the side of the screen and you choose the colour you want.



### Clicky Sticky

A sticker book app. I love this one, it has great sound effects as the picture is built up by dragging images from the top of the screen onto the scene below. The scenes include 'the airport' ( great plane noises) and a child in a bedroom, who can be dressed.



### Colorama

More advanced and conventional, a range of B/W drawings with a row of coloured pencils along the bottom of the screen. Select the colour pencil you want and the area is filled in with the selected colour ( a bit too neat and tidy for me). Other titles include 'masks' and also 'bugs'.



### Jackson Pollock

Pop art at its best, just scribble away using any colours you want, then save the art for the portfolio.



### 'Toy story-read along' and 'Toy story 3-read along'

A free book by Disney with magical 'toy story' being read, moreover many interactive things to do like colouring, painting. Choose a song to sing to you, 'you've got a friend in me' is great with a film clip to watch as you read the words .....you've got a friend in me!

Disney do other books but you have to pay for them.



### AlphaBELCH

A book with the alphabet and many rude sounds, different from Disney and a rip roarer for those with a wicked sense of alphabet toilet humour! Created by Stephen White, the writer of 'Barnie's friends'.



### Ocean Blue

My diving husband's best app. Beautiful underwater scenes where you choose the fish and the ocean background to create your own sea. The sound effects are very watery and the fish dazzle.



### icomm

Short for I communicate-I cannot believe this is free at the moment, it is so simple and easy to use. It is custom built to suit the communicator using pictures and words both written and spoken. Lots of empty frames to put in what they need.

Mind blowing for those using bits of card and Velcro, technology will release you!



### Paper Toss-ad free

Flick the piece of crumpled paper into the waste paper basket. A fan can be used to make the throw harder to judge. Perfect for eye hand coordination. Definitely for staff room fun!

### You Tube and ipad clips

Go to the website [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and use the following instructions to find some really interesting clips. If you want to download the clip (to impress the powers that be into buying an ipad) then use [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com) , I use this without a problem so you can too!

For film clips on You Tube about the use of ipads, for particular special needs, then try a general search by putting in a phrase such as 'ipad autism' or 'ipad disability' to find ones to suit you. The clips are all american at the moment, the ipad was released months before the UK.

### **Richard Hirstwood**

Innovations wizard Richard, has great clips on how to use the ipad and also brilliant apps that he has found useful, some of which are mentioned above. Go to [www.sensology.org](http://www.sensology.org) look for 'sensory ideas' and the clips will be there along with other useful ideas.

ipad communication  
ipad in education  
great ipad apps

So that is all for now, I am putting together a small book on how to use the ipad and apps in different settings and running some Saturday morning matinees in the summer. These include a session on using ipads within a curriculum, contact me if you are interested or look at the following websites [www.sensology.org](http://www.sensology.org) and [www.flolonghorn.squarespace.com](http://www.flolonghorn.squarespace.com)

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