

Resources Within Reason

Music Applications

Petra Kern, PhD, MT-DMtG, MT-BC, MTA

Music Therapy Consulting

Applications (apps) that reflect children's interests and preferences can motivate learning while having fun. Music apps may engage all children in the learning process and lengthen their attention spans. iPads, iPod Touch, and iPhones can turn into vibrant musical instruments, an animal band, or sing-alongs that teach basic academic concepts, language, motor, social and emotional skills, or simple musical ideas. This column introduces a selection of high-quality music apps that may address appropriate learning goals for young children who have different ability levels. Titles followed by an asterisk (*) are currently available for free; all other apps cost US\$1.99 or less.

Apps for Infants and Toddlers

Little Star HD—Baby's First Music Game

by Peekaboo Studios LLC

Tapping on a star brings a visual and sound response that gradually builds the song *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Children can use this app to explore action and reaction while also practicing eye-hand coordination by touching the stars.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id396173172?mt=8>

Laugh & Learn—Shapes and Colors Music Show for Babies*

by Fisher-Price®

Level 1 of this app provides five colored shapes that bounce around with a unique melody when the screen is tapped or tilted. Each object announces its color and shape and motivates children to play by talking or giggling, as a well-known children's song is activated as the children tap on it. Level 2 puts on a music show featuring each colored shape with a little rhyming song and dance.

Children can learn basic academic concepts such as identifying colors and names of shapes with this app.

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/id490650819>

Awesome Xylophone

by Tharts

This app features a virtual xylophone with colored keys and high-quality sounds over three octaves. Children can play single notes and chords by touching the bars to create their own melodies and songs.

<https://itunes.apple.com/ie/app/awesome-xylophone/id423063965?mt=8>

Baby Touch & Hear—Musical Instruments*

by Open Solutions

In addition to animal sounds and other categories, this app offers images of musical instruments with corresponding sounds and verbal and text description. Young learners can use the app to familiarize themselves with names and sounds of instruments in various languages.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/baby-touch-hear-musical-instruments/id506608787?mt=8>

Mixeroo Lite—Songs for Kids to Mix*

by Kirk Wheeler

This mixing tool encourages children to explore the musical arrangement of a children's song by manipulating four colored faders. Moving the faders up and down isolates the different instruments and melody lines, allowing children to create their own mix of sounds.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mixeroo-lite-songs-for-kids/id422800199?mt=8>

LeapFrog Songs: Toddler Rhythms

by LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc.

This interactive sing-along app encourages children to choose from a variety of educational songs that explore the letters of the alphabet, greetings in various languages, counting, names of shapes, colors, feelings, and more. An animal band performs the songs and features solo parts when children tap on an animal.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/leapfrog-songs-toddler-rhythms/id476233120?mt=8>

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<http://yec.sagepub.com>

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Apps for Preschoolers

Monkey Drum*

by Flippfly, LLC

This app features a little monkey that imitates each action taken by a child (e.g., playing a drum, tapping the monkey's mouth for funny sounds, spinning around). Simply by playing, children earn heart coins, which can be used to unlock additional features (e.g., other jungle animals, instruments, and songs). This app can teach children about action and reaction, making choices, or waiting for turns.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/monkey-drum/id483225765?mt=8>

SoundingBoard*

by AbleNet

This app functions as a simple communication device. Customized boards of labeled pictures may be created from a preloaded symbol library, the iPad photo library, or self-created photographs with written words and an audio or sound message. This app is a perfect choice-making tool for selecting musical instruments or other music activities (e.g., singing, dancing, listening to music).

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/soundingboard/id390532167?mt=8>

A Fine Musician

by The Trustee for the Tokeru Trust

This rhythmical storybook includes music, sound effects, and animation encouraging children to read and explore the content in multiple ways. Tapping on windows and doors brings out people who comment on the fine musician's drumming the beat "ratta tat ratta rat" while marching down the street. Children can choose to read the story by themselves or with an automatic narrator while exploring various instruments and accompanying environmental sounds—a great tool to encourage literacy skills.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/a-fine-musician/id406573790?mt=8>

VidRhythm*

by Harmonix

This app allows children to choose from a variety of songs and video styles to create an innovative music video in a couple of minutes. Children can record their own rhythm patterns or message and share their unique music video via email and social media. This app can support social skills by encouraging taking turns and working collaboratively on a joint project.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vidrhythm/id457548851?ls=1&mt=8>

Dr. Seuss Band

by Oceanhouse Media

While playing along with the soundtrack of Dr. Seuss stories, children can create their own instrument by swapping parts of five unique horns with different sound qualities. Mastering different skill levels enables children to discover more tunes, instruments, and sounds. Children can learn on-task behavior while enjoying music.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id474940131?mt=8>

Mozart Interactive*

by Melody Street LLC

This app provides an interactive musical experience. Children decide which animated instrument figure joins a young piano player in performing Mozart's famous Rondo Alla Turca. Waiting periods go by quickly as children produce their own version of the musical piece that can be shared with family members and friends via email, Facebook, or Twitter.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id499372535?mt=8>

Jazzy ABC—Music Education for Kids

by The Melody Book

The initial level of this app encourages children to explore the letters of the alphabet by introducing corresponding musical instruments through interactive images and audio recordings. On the next level, children are asked to identify the instrument that starts with a specific letter from a selection of five and are rewarded with praise and applause for choosing the correct one. Finally, children can take a photo with the jazzy cats and share it with friends or family members.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id529559936>

Singing Fingers*

by Beginner's Mind

This app allows users to finger-paint a sound and play it back by moving a finger forward, backwards, or sideways over the musical canvas. Besides recording musical instruments and environmental sounds, children also can explore their own voices by making them visible in a colorful drawing. This app has great potential for practicing speech skills such as rate, pitch, stress, inflection, and pronunciation of words.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/singing-fingers/id381015280?mt=8>

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