



Reading and Literacy Apps

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Research-Based Apps

App Name	Skill Area(s)	Description	Cost
Learn with Homer	Phoneme-Grapheme knowledge, Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary, Reading Fluency, Reading Comprehension, Working Memory	Follows an explicit, systematic, and sequential approach [1, 2, 3]. Combines reading with spelling through the use of segmenting and blending, allowing the child to identify each sound with a letter, to be able to spell the word as well as read it [4]. Phonemic awareness is explicitly taught [5, 6] and central to Learn with Homer's program. Includes interactive tasks [7], and repetition and opportunities for review to increase automaticity and likelihood of mastery. Learn with Homer aims at building vocabulary through repeated exposure in authentic contexts using its Discover the World Lessons [3]. Working memory is also incorporated by having children respond to questions regarding the lessons [8].	Free* *Free 30 day trial, lessons can be purchased following trial.
OG Card Deck	Phoneme-Grapheme Knowledge	Based on the Orton-Gillingham principles [9], this app helps teach phoneme-grapheme knowledge through a multi-sensory approach.	Free
Dyslexia Quest	Screening tool for Dyslexia and Reading Difficulty	Screens for: Working Memory, Phonological Awareness, Processing Speed, Visual Sequential Memory, Auditory Sequential Memory, Visual Memory Research trials for Dyslexia Quest can be found here	\$9.99



		[10]	
Hairy Letters	Phoneme-Grapheme Knowledge, Phonemic Awareness	Children learn letter names and sounds and blending letter sounds to make words [10].	\$3.99
Hairy Phonics 1, 2, 3	Phoneme-Grapheme Knowledge, Reading and Spelling Rules	Teaches consonant and vowel digraphs, r-controlled vowels, and magic E [10].	\$3.99
Hairy Words 1, 2	Orthographic Knowledge	Teaches reading and writing of sight words [10].	\$3.99

[1] Adams, Mary J., *Beginning to Read: Thinking and Learning About Print*. Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1994. (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[2] Ehri, L. C., S. R. Nunes, D. M. Willows, B. V. Schuster, Z. Yaghoub-Zadeh, and T. Shanahan. “Phonemic awareness instruction helps children learn to read: Evidence from the National Reading Panel’s meta-analysis.” *Reading Research Quarterly* (2001): 250–287. (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[3] National Reading Panel (U.S.). “Teaching Children to Read: An Evidence-based Assessment of the Scientific Research Literature on Reading and its Implications for Reading Instruction.” National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (2000). (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[4] Rose, Jim. “Independent Review of the Teaching of Early Reading.” Department for Education and Skills (2006). (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[5] Snow, Catherine E., M. Susan Burns, and Peg Griffin, ed. *Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1998. (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[6] “Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children: A joint position statement of the International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.” *Young Children* 53 (1998): 30–46. (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[7] French, Geraldine. “Children’s Early Learning and Development: A Research Paper.” National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (2007). (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))

[8] Alloway, T., Alloway, R. “Investigating the Predictive Roles of Working Memory and IQ in Academic Attainment.” *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology* 106 (2010): 20–29. (As cited in [The Research Behind Learn With Homer](#))



[9] Gillingham, A. & Stillman, B.W. (1997). The Gillingham Manual: remedial training for students with specific disability in reading, spelling and penmanship. (8th ed.). Cambridge, MA: Educators Publishing Service.

[10] [Research Support for Nessy Learning: Nessy Reading Pilot Case Studies - Initial Findings.](#)

Apps based on Researched Principles

App Name	Skill Area(s)	Description	Research Principles	Cost
One Minute Reader	Focus: Fluency Additional: Comprehension, Vocabulary Read Naturally Strategy: https://www.readnaturally.com/research/read-naturally-strategy	Uses teacher modeling and repeated reading strategies. Student selects a story, student takes a baseline for the story, student participates in a read along, the student practices reading the story on their own, student takes a quiz about the story, student receives a graph of their progress on the story, student completes a crossword puzzle regarding the story.	1, 2, 3	
Read Naturally Live *iPad Ready- information stored in the cloud, accessible from any device with internet	Focus: Fluency, Phonics Additional: Comprehension, Vocabulary Read Naturally Strategy: https://www.readnaturally.com/research/read-naturally-strategy	The student masters a story by reading along with audio then practicing the story until he or she can read if fluently with comprehension. The program automatically tracks student progress. Student selects a story, learns the key vocabulary words that are important for comprehension, student uses the title, pictures and key words to predict what the story is about, a baseline is taken for the passage, the student participates in a	1, 2, 3	



		read along, the student practices the story, the student answers questions about the story, the student retells the story.		
Reading Comprehension Booster	Comprehension	Provides interactive tools for demonstrating and increasing reading comprehension by recording aspects of the story based on the child's ability levels.	4	\$3.99
Square Panda: Lagoon* *Required Square Panda Playset	Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary	Children place smart letters on the playset to create words, real or nonsense, and a dancing chameleon pronounces the series of letters. If a child creates a real word, a picture representation appears on the screen to reinforce vocabulary.	5	
Square Panda: Letter Lab* *Required Square Panda Playset	Phonemic Awareness	Children help find letters for "word-bots". Children use a magical wand, splatter painter, and a shrink ray to do "letter experiments" allowing them to hear letter sounds in new contexts.	5	
Square Panda: Fishing* *Required Square Panda Playset	Phonemic Awareness	Children reel in their fishing line to catch letter fish. With each letter fish they catch, they learn to trace letters of the alphabet.	5	
Sound Beginnings	Phonics	Uses the techniques of blending and segmenting while teaching the sounds of letter symbols.	6, 7	Free



ABC Spelling Magic 1 - Short Vowel Words	Phonics	Teaches letter sounds and word building for three letter, short vowel words. Teaches the skill of segmenting.	6	Free
ABC Spelling Magic 2 - Consonant Blends	Phonics	Teaches the skill of quickly blending letter sounds and segmenting. Teaches word reading and reinforces the sounds of the alphabet.	6, 7	Free
ABC Magic Reading 1 - Short Vowel Words	Orthographic Knowledge	Focuses on teaching CVC words using blending and segmenting. Includes two games for over 200 words.	6, 7	Free, Deluxe - \$0.99
ABC Magic Reading 2 - Consonant Blends	Orthographic Knowledge	Focuses on CCVC words or CVCC words, but also includes an advanced section of CCVCC or CCCVC words. Includes games and over 300 words.	6, 7	Free, Deluxe - \$0.99
ABC Magic Reading 3 - Multiple Syllables	Orthographic Knowledge	Focuses on multiple syllable words. Includes games and over 300 words.	6, 7	Free, Deluxe - \$0.99
ABC Magic Reading 4 - Silent Final E	Orthographic Knowledge	Focuses on reading words with a silent final E. Includes segmenting and blending of words. Includes over 280 words.	6, 7	Free, Deluxe - \$0.99
Alphabetics	Phonemic Awareness	Helps children develop phonemic awareness and letter recognition through multi sensory games through the use of animal illustrations. Helps children identify the smallest units of	5	Free



		sounds in the English Language		
Blending SE (Student Edition)	Decoding, Blending of Sounds in Words	Supplemental tool for teaching blending of sounds in words. Has a companion teaching app available as well (Teaching Blending - TE). Teaches blending of sounds in 8 stages, and uses the method of fading cues	7	\$2.99

- [1] Modeled Reading
- [2] Repeated Reading
- [3] Progress Monitoring
- [4] General Learning Principles
- [5] Multisensory Approach
- [6] Segmenting
- [7] Blending

Non-Research Based Apps - Skill Building

App Name	Skill Area(s)	Description	Cost
Sound Literacy	Phonemic awareness, phonological processing, the alphabetic principle, morphemic awareness	Best used as an instructional tool. Assists in teaching parts of words including: “consonant teams”, “vowel teams”, word endings, prefixes, suffixes, root words, and more.	\$9.99
Spelling City	Spelling	Includes engaging games for students to help learn spelling words using a list.	Free
Story Time for Kids	Interactive Audio books, Reading Comprehension	Includes interactive stories available for purchase that use graphics and voices, and includes games for help with reading comprehension.	Free* *requires in-app



			purchases
ABC Phonics Word Families	Spelling, word identification	Focuses on word families based on vowels. Includes images, animations and interactions for words to assist in learning.	Free* *requires in-app purchases
LetterReflex	Letter reversals	Teaches left from right and allows students to practice what they've learned using letter discrimination skills	\$2.99
Magnispies	Vowel Identification in words	Uses a spy game to increase correct vowel identification and recognition in words	Free
Oz Phonics	Phonemic Awareness	Focuses on letter-sound and sound-letter relationships.	\$0.99
Partners in Rhyme	Phonemic Awareness	Helps children develop phonemic awareness by increasing awareness of rhyming words.	\$1.99
ABC Magic	Phonics	Helps children learn the sounds of the letters of the alphabet using rhyming to match letter sounds to matching objects.	Free
ABC Magic 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	Phonics	Builds on ABC Magic. Includes additional games and increases difficulty.	Free
ABC Spelling Magic 1	Phonics	Teaches letter sounds and word building for three letter, short vowel words. Teaches the skill of segmenting.	Free
Sentence Reading Magic -	Reading Comprehension,	Teaches sentence reading of 2, 3, 4, and 5-word	\$2.99



Deluxe	Reading Fluency, Orthographic Knowledge	sentences. Also includes games for practicing sight words in reading.	
Sentence Reading Magic 2 - Consonant Blends	Reading Comprehension, Reading Fluency, Orthographic Knowledge	Teaches sentence reading of 2, 3, 4, and 5-word sentences involving consonant blends. Also includes games for practicing sight words in reading.	\$2.99
Bob Books - Reading Magic	Decoding, Reading Comprehension	Follows the same method and principles as the Bob Books series. Slowly introduces new letter sounds using consistency and repetition. Includes games with 12 scenes for a total of 32 words.	\$3.99
Starfall Learn to Read	Orthographic Knowledge, Reading and Spelling Rules	Contains 15 lesson books for teaching reading and spelling rules including digraphs, left-right reading, short and long vowels, and more.	Free



Non-Research Based Apps - Compensatory

App Name	Skill Area(s)	Description	Cost
Easy Spelling Aid - Dyslexia and Dysgraphia Helper	Spelling	Allows the student to say a word that they would like spelled, and the provides the correct spelling in both capital and lowercase letters	\$2.99
Dyslexia Toolbox	Word prediction, document reader	Provides assistive technology by helping with work prediction for the creation of messages, provides a digital overlay for reading text through a color screen, and has a document reader that allows the student to take a picture of text and then reads it outloud.	\$4.99
American Word Speller	Spelling	Allows the student to look up words based on the way they sound.	\$1.99
Learning Ally Audio* Requires a membership	Audiobooks		Free
Go Read (Bookshare)	Audiobooks		Free
ClaroSpeak	Text-to-speech	Text-to-speech app with human-sounds, high-quality voices. Highlights words as they are spoken. Can create audio files from any text.	\$6.99
Speller	Spelling	Allows the student to type a word based on how it sounds and will come up with the actual spelling of the word. Provides definitions of words.	Free
SoundGecko	Text-to-speech	Allows the student to convert online articles into MP3s by copying the website and inserting the email address to send the audio recording to.	Free



MeeGenius	Audiobooks	Contains a library of children's books, narrated in a human voice. Words are highlighted as they are read.	Free
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