# iPad Apps for Children with Special Needs and/or Visual Impairment

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This list represents recommended apps from parents, teachers of the blind and visually impaired, early interventionists, speech pathologists, deaf-blind educators and a variety of websites.

## Visually Stimulating Apps

**Bubbles**
by Hog Bay Software ($0.99) at The App Store (see description in CVI section)

## Early Cause and Effect Apps (child can touch anywhere on the iPad to get a response)

**iLoveFireworks** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Music & Sounds
Price: $0.99 Where to Buy: Find iLoveFireworks at the App Store
Developer: Fireworks Games
Devices: Compatible with iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch
Operating System: Requires iOS 3.0 or later
For children with no vision the joy is in the sounds. The pops, bangs and explosions are exciting and with the sound turned up to maximum you can actually feel the iPad vibrate a little with each bang. For kids with some vision, the lights of the fireworks are bright and contrast perfectly with the all-black background. This would be a lot of fun to play with in the dark and would be a great app for kids with CVI! The other thing we love about iLoveFireworks is that it is so sensitive to touch. Any little movement of your finger results in a firework, and the bigger your movement, the bigger the bang! If you place your whole hand on the screen you'll get a big firework. But leave your hand there and the fireworks die down. Now just twitch your little pinky finger and you'll get a tiny little pop. Move your whole hand again and whoa! The sky is alight in fireworks! It's a great way to teach kids about motor control and how each little (or big) movement results in a comparable response from the iPad.
**Fireworks!** by Matthew Tomlinson FREE at The App Store
**Fluidity HD** by nebulus design 2.99 at The App Store, beautiful colors flow across the screen with a gentle touch
**Talking Carl** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Games & Recreation
Price: $0.99 Where to Buy: Find Talking Carl at the App Store Developer: Tayasui
Devices: Compatible with iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch

Operating System: Requires iOS 4.1 or later

Blind and low vision users will delight in interacting with Carl because it's easy—just speak and laugh—and does not require learning how to hold the iPad or interact with the screen. Carl may also be beneficial to teaching children with autism about the back-and-forth aspect of communication: you say something, pause, and then Carl says something (repeats what you said, actually), etc. There are several different apps available that are a variation on Talking Carl. The reason why Carl is great for low vision users is because he presents as a simple, squarish figure who is red and he is set against a simple background. For children with Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI), the color red is attractive. They will also benefit from the uncluttered visual display.

**Sensory Light Box** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Music & Sounds, Games & Recreation
Price: $1.99 Where to Buy: Find Cause and Effect Sensory Light Box at the App Store
Developer: Cognable
Operating System: Requires iOS 4.0 or later
Sensory Light Box is based on a very simple idea... when your finger is on the screen cool things happen, and when you stop touching the screen the cool things stop. That's pretty much it, but the app is done so beautifully and is so easy to use that you can't help but feel that there's much more going on.

**Sensory Sound Box** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Music & Sounds, Games & Recreation
Price: $1.99 Where to Buy: Find Cause and Effect Sensory Sound Box at the The App Store
Developer: Cognable
Sensory Sound Box is a lot like Sensory Light Box with the simple idea that when your finger is touching the screen neat things happen and when you lift your finger they stop. But in the sound version of this app as your finger moves across the screen the sounds take on very different characteristics.

## Cause and Effect Apps that Require Directed Touch

**Pocket Pond 2** by TriggerWave LLC, FREE at The App Store,
Raise, feed, play with, and sell thousands of different kinds of koi. Decorate your pond and make it beautiful!
**Peekaboo Barn** by Night and Day Studios, Inc., see review in CVI section
**Elmo loves ABC's** by Sesame Street, 4.99 at The App Store
**Fun Shooting Stars** by Lewis Johnson, FREE at The App Store

## Cause and Effect Apps that Require Directed Touch and Specific Responses

**Five Sharks Swimming** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Price: $2.99 each
Where to Buy: Find Inclusive Smarty Pants & Five Sharks Swimming at the App Store
Developer: Inclusive Technology
Devices: Compatible with iPad Operating System: Requires iOS 4.0 or later
Five Sharks Swimming is a counting game that offers a few different levels of difficulty. In the first game, "Song," one shark swims in a pond while a song is played. The song stops and your child simply taps (or smacks) the screen to get the song to continue. This is a wonderful beginner's counting game and also teaches cause-and-effect.
In "Counting Activities," you have three choices: Counting Up, Counting Along a Number Line or Counting in Sets. In Counting Up a shark card outlined in red appears and your child has to tap it to hear the sharks counted. The flashing red outline helps children with low vision find the shark. Counting

Along a Number Line is a similar game but all five sharks appear on the screen at the same time and your child has to choose them in order. The last game, Counting in Sets, is the most complicated. Your child is given sets of sharks and asked to identify the correct set.
**Itsy Bitsy Spider HD** by DuckDuck Moose

## Vision Specific Apps that are Entertaining

**Fluidity** by nebulus design (free) beautiful interactive fluid dynamics with stunning colors
**Firework** by Computer Docs LLC (.99 cents) music and fireworks in an interactive visualization
**Pocket Ponds** by TriggerWave LLC (free) interact and feed the fish with relaxing sounds

## Apps Developed for Children with CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment)

**Tap-n-See Zoo** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Education
Price: $2.99 Where to Buy: Find Tap-n-See Zoo at the App Store
Developer: Little Bear Sees
Devices: Compatible with iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch
Tap-n-See Zoo, the game is simple: Watch an animal slowly and gracefully bounce across the screen. Touch the animal to make it stop and grow to fill almost the entire screen. You'll also hear a reward sound (laughter, applause, a slide whistle, etc.), so you get a nice combination of a visual and audio feedback when you "win." Different options allow you to play with color combinations and decipher which colors your child responds to most. Use Tap-n-See Zoo to help your child learn to track moving objects or recognize colors; use their vision in a simple and non-cluttered environment; or learn about cause and effect.
**My Talking Picture Board** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org*
Categories: Cause & Effect, Music & Sounds, Communication, Education
Price: $19.99 Where to Buy: Find My Talking Picture Board at the App Store
Developer: Little Bear Sees
Devices: Compatible with iPad
Like Tap-n-See Zoo, My Talking Picture Board is designed for children with CVI, but can also be used as a simple visual discrimination app for anyone who needs help learning to locate and identify two-dimensional images.
The website www.littlebearsees.org has other useful information on CVI and was developed by a parent of a child with CVI.
**Peekaboo Barn App** *reviewed by wonderbaby.org* Categories: Games & Recreation, Cause & Effect
Where to buy: Find Peekaboo Barn at the App Store Developer: Night & Day Studios
Devices: Compatible with iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch
Why it's good for visually impaired children:
For a child with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) this app is fantastic! Consider that children with CVI tend to favor the colors red and yellow and high-contrast images. Movement can help grab their attention. Peekaboo Barn has a red barn, with white trim and the barn moves by hopping up and down. This is a great way to teach your child how to focus and use the visual information they're gathering.
**Bubbles**
Where to Buy: Find Bubbles at the App Store
Developer: Hog Bay Software
Devices: Compatible with iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch
Using Bubbles is not really a game, but more of an engaging and relaxing way to pass time interacting with your child and allowing them the opportunity to become accustomed to tracking objects with their functional vision.
**Infant Stimulation Pack** by Treebetty LLC, $6.00 bundle or free for Lite version

**Big Bang Bundle** by Inclusive Technology Ltd, $34.99 available only on iPad
**EDA Play** by Rana pece EDA LLC, $4.99 available only on iPad


## Story Apps on the iPad that are Visual, Auditory and Interactive
**Elmo Loves ABC's** by Sesame Street, 4.99 at The App Store
**Dr. Seuss Beginner Books** by Oceanhouse Media, individual $5.99
**The Monster at the End of this Book starring Grover!** by Sesame Street, 4.99 at The App Store
**Twinkle Twinkle 2.0**
http://www.supersimplelearning.com 2.99 at The App Store


## Augmentative Communication Apps
**Proloquo2go** by Assistive Ware, $249.99
**Bridge Communication Lite** by Bioprism, Inc.
**Bridge Communication** by Bioprism, Inc., $59.99


## Apps to Encourage Tracking and Reading Skills
**Sight Words List**
by Innovative Mobile Apps, $0.99 cents at The App Store
**VocabularySpellingCity** A fun way to learn spelling and vocabulary words. FREE at The App Store
**Visual Attention TherAPPy**
Goal Areas: Visual Scanning, Reading, Visual Attention, Sustained Attention, Memory
Helps: Left Neglect, Hemianopsia, Unilateral Inattention, Right Neglect, Dyslexia, Slow Readers, Brain Injury, Stroke, Pre- reading students
Languages: English
Price: $9.99 from Tactus Solutions Ltd. http://tactustherapy.com
Version: 1.01


## Apps for Low Vision Middle and High School Students to Help with Homework & Assignments
The **MyHomework** app is very helpful. MyHomework can be entered by the resource teacher or teacher and assignments are added and monitored. Dragon dictation is a free app from the App Store that can be copied and pasted into assignments. Allows you to speak to send text or email messages.
Web sites with a variety of apps listed and reviewed: www.bridgingapps.org
**Bits Board by Happy Moose Apps Lite**, or $42.99
**Brighter Bigger** by Kazunori Asada free at The App Store
**Elmo's 123** by Sesame Street, $4.99
**Math Robot** by American Printing House for the Blind (APH)
**Read2Go** by Benetech, $19.99 at The App Store.
**Seeing AI** by Microsoft Corporation
**Story Builder** by Narrative Skill Builder, $17.99
**Talking Scientific Calculator** by Adam Croser, $4.99
**Voice Dream Reader** by Text to Speech, $14.99

## Special Needs Apps for Children with a Variety of Learning Challenges

www.wonderbaby.org
Website for parents of children with visual impairment that includes detailed iPad app reviews
www.cadbs.org
California Deaf-Blind Services has a list of apps for children with vision and hearing impairments
www.rjcooper.com
RJ Cooper makes special software and hardware products for persons with special needs including individual consultation and assessment in person or over the phone.


## Digitally Recorded Textbooks, Literature, and Podcasts

www.learningally.org
Learning Ally serves more than 300,000 K-12, college and graduate students, veterans and lifelong learners – all of whom cannot read standard print due to blindness, visual impairment, dyslexia, or other learning disabilities. Learning Ally's collection of more than 65,000 digitally recorded textbooks and literature titles – downloadable and accessible on mainstream as well as specialized assistive technology devices – is the largest of its kind in the world.
www.bookshare.org
www.airsla.org


## Organizations or Individuals Who Provide Technology Assistance

www.empowertech.org
EMPOWERTECH is Los Angeles County's only non-profit organization devoted to bringing the latest in assistive technology to children and adults living with disabilities.
www.abilitytools.org
Ability Tools, formerly the AT Network, is California's Assistive Technology Act Program. They provide a variety of services for Californians with disabilities of all ages.
Services include: AT Exchange marketplace, Device Lending Libraries, Financial loan program for AT, Information & Referral, Reuse program in affiliation with organizational partners
www.rjcooper.com
RJ Cooper makes special software and hardware products for persons with special needs including individual consultation and assessment in person or over the phone.