iPod/iPad and Apps Resource

Resource for staying current with iOS Technology

updated 7/2/12
The Rapidly Changing World of Technology ......................... 8

Which Device is Right ........................................................................................................ 8

Questions to Ask When Considering Purchasing a Device ........................................ 10

4 Questions to Ask When Considering Purchasing an App ......................................... 10

Asking the Hard Questions ......................................................................................... 10

Apps Aren’t Everything ............................................................................................. 10

The iPad: Changing Education for the Better? ...................................................... 11

Basic iPod/iPad Resources ...................................................................................... 11

Apple Accessibility ..................................................................................................... 11

dPads in School ........................................................................................................... 11

Learning with iPod Touch and iPhone .................................................................... 11

What are Web Apps? ................................................................................................. 11

Why an iPod touch in Education? ........................................................................... 12

The Magic ................................................................................................................... 13

Atomic tom - Take Me Out ....................................................................................... 13

iPad Music - Hey Soul Sister/Soul Train ................................................................. 14

$5 Raffle Ticket ........................................................................................................ 14

The Best iPad Commercial (Not Made by Apple) ............................................. 15

Becoming Han Solo .................................................................................................... 15

iPods/iPads for Education ....................................................................................... 16

Accessible Technology Coalition ............................................................................. 16

Apple Volume Purchase Program for Education ................................................. 16
Evaluation Rubric for Educational Apps ................................................................. 16
iApps Evaluation Rubric .......................................................... 17
iPads for Education Victoria, Australia ................................................................. 17
The Conversation of Assistive Technology in the IEP ........................................ 17
Ways to Evaluate Educational Apps ................................................................. 17

iPod/iPad Accessories ......................................................................................... 18
6 Great Gloves for Touchscreen Gadget Lovers .................................................. 18
Ablenet Inc. - Blue 2 ....................................................................................... 18
Beyond Adaptive ......................................................................................... 18
Big Grips ................................................................................................. 18
Griffin Technology ....................................................................................... 19
iAdapter ................................................................................................. 19
iHome .................................................................................................... 19
iLife ....................................................................................................... 19
iLounge ................................................................................................. 19
Lasered Pics .......................................................................................... 20
Otterbox ................................................................................................. 20
RJ Cooper .............................................................................................. 20
Ten One Design ........................................................................................ 20

iPod/iPad Blogs ............................................................................................. 21
ATMac ...................................................................................................... 21
Autism Epicenter ....................................................................................... 21
Disability Blog: the Accessibility Features of the iPad .................................. 21
iPod/iPad App Lists ................................................................. 24

10 Best iPad Apps for College Students .................................................. 24
30+ Best iPhone Apps for Kids ............................................................... 24
AppAdvice - iPhone/iPad App News and Reviews .................................. 24
Apps for Education: Connsense Bulletin ............................................... 24
Best Kids Apps .................................................................................. 25
I Education Apps Review .................................................................... 25
Inver Grove Heights Community School District .................................... 25
iPad Apps for Autism and other special needs ........................................ 25
iPhone - iPod - iPad Apps for (Special) Education ............................... 25
iPad Apps (Grade Levels & Subjects) .................................................... 25
iTouch for Special Needs ...................................................................... 26
Jeremy Brown’s App Recommendations for Students with Autism .......... 26
Learning Continuity with iPod Touches ................................................... 26
The Rapidly Changing World of Technology

Since its debut in 2007 the iPod touch and most recently the iPad have taken the world by storm. With its touch screen technology, its mainstream look and appeal and thousands of apps readily available, the iPod/iPad have also taken the education world by storm.

**Which Device is Right**

- iPod Touch 4th Generation
  - built in camera and recorder
  - the difference is in the amount of memory available

- iPad with Wi-Fi or WiFi +3G
  - increased screen size, flexible orientation
• iPad 2 with Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G (available in black or white)
• thinner, lighter, rear and forward facing camera, 10 hour battery life

***Prices subject to change***
Questions to Ask When Considering Purchasing a Device

- What is the purpose of the device?
- How much memory do I need?
- How will the user access the device?
- How long will the battery last?
- Is it durable enough?
- Other?

4 Questions to Ask When Considering Purchasing an App

1. Look at the date that the app was last updated. If it was released a year ago and there are no updates, then how committed is the app developer to updating the app to reflect the needs of the consumer?

2. What do the reviews say about the app? Read the reviews thoughtfully. Sometimes the reviews reflect what the consumer wishes the app would do rather than what it actually does. Also consider leaving a thoughtful review. Many developers are responsive to the requests of their consumers.

3. Is tech support available for the app? Check to see if the app developer can be reached. If the website no longer works, or if there is no email address, or your email isn’t returned that may mean that there is little to no tech support for the app.

4. Will the app run on your device? Check the listed operating systems and confirm that the app will run on your device.

Asking the Hard Questions

Apps Aren’t Everything

Thoughtful blog post from Moms with Apps on the approach we should be taking when thinking about the educational value of the iOS and the many “educational” apps available on the market.

http://momswithapps.com/2011/03/30/apps-arent-everything/
The iPad: Changing Education for the Better?
Blog post by Joel Bankhead posted in May 2011. As the title suggests this post questions the impact technology and the iPad has on education.

http://ipad.appstorm.net/general/opinion/the-ipad-changing-education-for-the-better/

Basic iPod/iPad Resources

APPLE ACCESSIBILITY
A page on the Apple website devoted to accessibility features of all Apple devices including the iOS devices.

http://www.apple.com/accessibility/

IPADS IN SCHOOL
Blog by Michael Kaufman, one of the four founding principals of a small consulting firm. The blog is a journal reflection that chronicles the ever expanding use of the iPad in schools.

http://www.ipadinschools.com

LEARNING WITH IPOD TOUCH AND IPHONE
Resource from Apple to help you get started with iOS Technology. The size of iOS technology combined with the many education apps available, allow users to carry an entire library of reference materials with you where ever you go.


WHAT ARE WEB APPS?
Web applications — or web apps — combine the power of the Internet with the simplicity of Multi-Touch technology. Browsing web apps is easy. Simply it is a web application optimized to run as an app on mobile technology. There are over 1700 web apps to flick and scroll through.

WHY AN iPod TOUCH IN EDUCATION?
Educator Chris Webb thoughts on using iPods in education from a blog post dated 2009

http://projects.minot.k12.nd.us/groups/chris/weblog/5cd29/
Why_an_iPod_Touch_in_education_.html
Chapter 1

The Magic

A video tells it all

A collection of my favorite video examples of folks being creative with using the iPod/Ipad and the many different apps that are available.

ATOMIC TOM - TAKE ME OUT

Atomic Tom is a group of musicians from Brooklyn, NY whose instruments were stolen. They improvised and used iPod/iPad apps to sing and record their song Take Me Out on the subway.
**IPAD MUSIC - HEY SOUL SISTER/SOUL TRAIN**

One musician and her iPad. In response to her family’s take that the iPod/iPad was only for play or fun, Ellen created this video. She recorded the video with her iPhone 4 Pro Camera. More information about her story and the apps she used can be found on her blog [http://www.ellenonceagain.com/content/hey-soul-sister-new-soul-train-yael-naim-cover](http://www.ellenonceagain.com/content/hey-soul-sister-new-soul-train-yael-naim-cover)

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$5 RAFFLE TICKET

The iPad was not initially considered an option for Leo. His parents thought it would be too fragile for him. But a $5 raffle ticket won them a brand new iPod and for Leo in the words of his mother a transformation. Read more about Leo at [http://www.blogher.com/ipad-nearmiracle-my-son-autism](http://www.blogher.com/ipad-nearmiracle-my-son-autism)
THE BEST iPAD COMMERCIAL (NOT MADE BY APPLE)


BECOMING HAN SOLO

In Brooklyn, New York, a nearly paralyzed boy, Owen, who cannot talk, uses an iPad to tell his mother what he wants to be for Halloween. Check out the video here.
Chapter 2

iPods/iPads for Education

Links to information about using iOS in schools

A collection of web sites about using iPods/iPads in education. I’m on the lookout for sites that are collecting data on using iOS in education.

ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY COALITION

AT specialist Jeannette Van Houten has shared her up-dated rubric for evaluating which app to select for a student. The rubric considers 12 different characteristics that can be rated, including connection to the curriculum, the type of skill to be practiced, age level, ease of use, and alternative access.

http://atcoalition.org/news/new-tool-evaluating-apps-k-12-students

APPLE VOLUME PURCHASE PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION

With the launch of the 2.0 iOS firmware in 2008, Apple allowed users to download applications through the iTunes desktop software or the iPhone’s App Store. The applications can only be run on iPhones, iPod Touch and iPad. Each application is protected with iTunes FairPlay DRM which associates them with a specific iTunes account. Prior to August 9th, Apple’s End User license Agreement (EULA) only allowed for sales to individual consumers. On August 9th, 2010 Apple announced a Volume Purchase program for Educational institutions.

http://iear.wikispaces.com/Volume+Purchase+Program

EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR EDUCATIONAL APPS

Harry Walker is the principal of Sandy Plains Elementary School in Baltimore County, Maryland. Fourth and fifth graders at the school are piloting one-to-one computing with iPod touches. One of his challenges is wading through the huge number of apps available. Harry has crafted a rubric to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of an app in terms of how it may impact student achievement. His criteria include curriculum connection, authenticity, feedback, differentiation, user friendliness and student motivation.

http://learninginhand.com/blog/evaluation-rubric-for-educational-apps.html
IAPPS EVALUATION RUBRIC

Harry Walker’s rubric adapted by Jeannette Van Houten for evaluating the effectiveness of an app for a particular student by giving it a qualitative and quantitative number rating.

http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fdl.dropbox.com%2Fu%2F22251188%2Fiapp%2520evaluation%2520Rubric.xlsx&h=yAQEj0MaPAQGMvK04FzSZS3QSFxnmaGPORK9Qy45QBBCvygc

IPADS FOR EDUCATION VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Web site of the Victorian Government’s iPads for Learning initiative. Contains links to information about Why the iPad?, Case Studies, 21 Steps to iPad Success, Classroom Ideas, Education Apps and more. More than just a list of apps for education this site takes you on their iOS learning journey.


THE CONVERSATION OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE IEP

A blog post by assistive technology specialist Jeannette Van Houten on her blog My Point of View.... Her views are based on her experiences working the NJ school systems. This particular post is about the process of consideration of AT in the IEP.

http://jvanhouten.blogspot.com/2012/05/conversation-of-assistive-technology-in.html

WAYS TO EVALUATE EDUCATIONAL APPS

A blog post on Tony Vincent’s Learning in Hand blog about ways to effectively evaluate apps for education. A comprehensive and thoughtful approach to evaluating this technology.

http://learninginhand.com/blog/ways-to-evaluate-educational-apps.html
Chapter 3

iPod/iPad Accessories

Input, Access, Protection and More

As fast as folks are creating apps, folks are creating accessories for the iPod/iPad. From stylish and durable cases to small and portable speakers there is something for everyone. These accessories are also addressing accessibility in very creative ways.

6 Great Gloves for Touchscreen Gadget Lovers

Mashable, provider of social media news and web tips brings us these recommendations for gloves that users can wear and still have access to their touch screen technology.


Ablenet Inc. - Blue2

AbleNet, an assistive technology developer, carries the Blue2. The Blue2 is a bluetooth wireless switch interface that connects via Bluetooth to your iOS device. Apps need to have scanning ability built into the app. AbleNet’s app Sounding Board recognizes the Blue2 switch.


Beyond Adaptive

The adaptive arm makes possible the portable use of an iPad in situations where hands free support is needed. The design was inspired by the developers 4 year old daughter with cerebral palsy who now uses her iPad daily as a communication tool. At school and therapy the Adaptive Arm helps her participate in the regular curriculum through the use of her AAC device/iPad.

http://www.beyondadaptive.com/

Big Grips

Big Grips Frame™ is the iPad case designed to be durable for kids. It’s big, squishy, easy to grab, comfortable to hold, and very grip-able. Big Grips Stand™ is a matching stand for working at a desk, lying on the couch, or kicking back and watching stuff.
**GRIFFIN TECHNOLOGY**

Griffin Technology began designing and manufacturing technical solutions with an innovative flair in 1992. They’ve since grown to become one of the largest providers of accessories for personal computing and digital media.

**IADAPTER**

Protect your iPad with the iAdapter housing complete with rubberized corners and handle to help protect your iPad from damage. A small slide cover on the front of the housing will hide the home button from little fingers that will close running applications. The iAdapter™ is also an amplifier with dual speakers that will deliver clean crisp sound. It comes with a rechargeable Lithium-Polymer battery, shoulder strap for portability and a plastic stand for table top use.

**IHOME**

iHome, a division of SDI Technologies, was launched in 2005 to market iPod Electronics. In just its first year, iHome became the #1 brand in the iPod Electronics market and its iPod Clock Radio became and continues to be the #1 selling iPod Speaker System in North America.

**ILIFE**

LIVE. WORK. PLAY. Three simple words that LifeWorks™ has embodied in its work. Launched in 2009, their product line is designed to fit the lifestyles of all consumers, with a blend of style and technology.

**ILOUNGE**

iLounge® is an independent provider of information about Apple Inc.’s iPod, iPhone and iPad digital media players, accessories, and related software, published online. It is not affiliated with Apple Computer or the manufacturers of iPod- or iPhone-related products.
LASERED PICS

Lasered Pics specializes in custom laser engraving and cutting. They have recently begun to make keyguards for a variety of communication apps on the iPad.

http://www.laseredpics.biz/servlet/StoreFront

OTTERBOX

Starting with something as simple as a box, OtterBox was created in 1998 and built upon fundamentals of hard work, creativity and perseverance. In their words, their cases or boxes are dedicated to all the klutzy, spontaneous, chaotic, graceless individuals who have broken a device or valuable due to their active lifestyle.

http://www.otterbox.com/

RJ COOPER

RJ Cooper makes special software and hardware products for the special needs community. Recent offerings include iPad case, with videos putting several cases through their paces; stands, remotes, bluetooth switch interface and more.

http://www.rjcooper.com/

TEN ONE DESIGN

Ten One Design, LLC is a design firm based in Montclair, NJ specializing in solutions for the mobile lifestyle.

http://www.tenonedesign.com
Chapter 4

iPod/iPad Blogs

Opinions, Thoughts, Experiences

It is the nature of technology these days to change rapidly. As soon as a new device is mastered an update is released. The app store features thousands of apps but how do we quickly and easily identify the best ones or at least a place to start.

ATMac

ATMac provides usable and understandable information about all Apple and Mac products for users with disability, chronic illness, or other impairments. Blog by a user of assistive technology.

http://atmac.org

AUTISM EPICENTER

Web site of parent Shane Nurnberg and his journey and experiences with his son Braden’s autism. A part of Shane’s web site is devoted to app review.

http://www.autismepicenter.com

DISABILITY BLOG: THE ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES OF THE IPAD

A blog about the latest disability related news, information and trends. The link below is to comprehensive information about the iOS built in accessibility features. This specific entry was posted January 26, 2011 by guest blogger Amanda Johansson.

http://blog.govdelivery.com/usodep/2011/01/the-accessibility-features-of-the-ipad-.html

GEEKSLP

Web site of speech therapist Barbara Fernandes (GeekSLP). Her site contains a variety of information including video episodes of GeekSLP TV, app reviews and app development for speech/language therapy.

http://www.geekslp.com
IPAD TODAY
Tech geeks Leo Laporte and Sarah Lane love their iPads so much, they’ve created “iPad Today,” the TWiT network’s first show highlighting the best apps, most helpful tools, coolest tricks, and essential news surrounding the iPad revolution. “iPad Today” is smart, informative, and lots of fun. Recorded live Thursdays at 1:30pm PT/4:30pm ET on http://live.twit.tv.

http://twit.tv/ipt

JONANDEMILYSWORLD.COM
Jonathan Zemsky and Emily Killebrew are licensed therapists that have tested hundred of apps. Their mission is to bring you information about the best low or no-cost apps.

http://www.jonanemilysworld.com/

MOBILE LEARNING 4 SPECIAL NEEDS
Wiki with information about apps, accessories, reviews, tutorial, video case studies and more.

http://mobilelearning4specialneeds.wikispaces.com/

MOMS WITH APPS
Moms with Apps is a group of individual, independent, family-friendly developers who share best practices on making and marketing mobile apps. Most of their membership is comprised of parents who have launched their own apps on the App Store, have their own access to iTunes Connect, and have the time and inclination to share best practices with other developers at the founder’s level. Moms with Apps features a popular App Friday where one or more apps is offered for free or at a significantly reduced price.

http://www.momswithapps.com

PODDY TRAINING
You’ve heard those catchy tunes floating down the hall from the Kindergarten wing, the clean up song or the goodbye song. This website will describe how one teacher’s idea to use an iPod instead of an old, bulky CD player exploded into an integrated iPod Touch program.

http://web.me.com/eccsms/poddytraining/Poddy_Training.html

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SHARING
Web site and blog of speech language pathologist Eric Sailers. He has a fondness for Apple and uses iPods/iPads in his work as an educator.

http://slpsharing.com/
SNAPPS4KIDS

SNAPPS4KIDS (Special Needs Apps for Kids) is a community of parents, therapists, doctors and teachers who share information on how they use the iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch and Android devices with children who have special needs

http://www.snapps4kids.com/

UNCOMMON SENSE

The Neider Family, David, Dana and Maya invite you into their life through their blog Uncommon Sense. With honesty and consistency they share their journey most recently involving the iPad as a tool for communication for their daughter Maya.

http://niederfamily.blogspot.com/
Chapter 5

iPod/iPad App Lists

We often get requests for our “list” of apps. Initially we tried to keep a list of apps but the changing technology, frequency of new releases and frequently changing prices made keeping and managing a list difficult. So we found other people who have compiled lists of apps. Following are links to sites or documents that contain lists of apps.

10 BEST IPAD APPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
This article is from the U.S. News & World Report Education feature. Brought to you by Professors’ Guide writers Lynn F. Jacobs and Jeremy S. Hyman. They looked to graduate student Ryan Wood for his top 10 list of apps for college students.

30+ BEST IPHONE APPS FOR KIDS
A list of apps for kids from Parenting.com, home of parenting and baby talk.

APPADVICE - IPHONE/IPAD APP NEWS AND REVIEWS
This web page contains some great app resources. In addition to the news and reviews it contains tabs for appreviews, applists, appguides, appcharts, and more. I found it while looking for apps for meditation (which can be found by searching the site or looking under the appguides.
http://appadvice.com/appnn

APPS FOR EDUCATION: CONNSENSE BULLETIN
This handout, compiled by Carolann Cormier, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP, is meant to be a resource. It is not meant to be exhaustive and is not a suggestion on what apps to buy or download. For review of apps, click on the review button when you are on the app download page in iTunes. If a lite version is available, generally they are free or cheaper, so they can be a way for you to try an app.
BEST KIDS APPS

Their mantra is “We play, so you don’t have to.” Check out their review of apps in categories divided by age, free, games, books & stories, and more.

http://www.bestkidsapps.com/

EDUCATION APPS REVIEW

IEAR is a grassroots community focused on taking a closer look at the educational value of “educational” apps!

http://www.iear.org/

INVER GROVE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A list of apps for education maintained by Inver Grove Heights School District. The document link is at the bottom of the page titled Apps for Literacy & iPod and iPad Apps. The Excel spreadsheet is sortable by a variety of categories including title, price, education category and more.

http://www.invergrove.k12.mn.us/iPods_and_iPads.html

IPAD APPS FOR AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

Parent blogger Shannon Des Roches Rosa, writes about many apps for autism on her blog, Squidilicious: The Adventures of Leo and his Potty Mouthed Mom. To make finding and navigating the many posts on apps for autism she with some help has compiled a google spreadsheet listing out their list of apps for autism. This list was compiled by a parent, an adult with autism and an SLP.

https://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=0AjbIta8OTS0KdHRMVWx0Q3pvOWRXXBfd01jc3lqakE&output=html

IPHONE - IPOD - IPAD APPS FOR (SPECIAL) EDUCATION

A list of apps authored by Eric Sailers. Updated October 2011 by Eric Sailers, Mark Coppin and Jennifer Marden. Based on a list by Samuel Sennott, Eric Sailers, and David Niemeijer.


IPOD APPS (GRADE LEVELS & SUBJECTS)

List of apps created by the Escondido Union School District in Google Docs. The list is sortable by grade level and subject.
ITOUCH FOR SPECIAL NEEDS
List of over 80 apps by the Open Access Resource Center for learners with special needs.

http://itouchforspecialneeds.pbworks.com/w/page/27170032/iTouch-for-Special-Needs

JEREMY BROWN’S APP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM
A comprehensive list of apps for iPod/iPad recommended by special educator Jeremy Brown.


LEARNING CONTINUITY WITH IPOD TOUCHES
An extensive listing of apps for teachers for the iPod and iPad. The list can be sorted by curricular discipline, app title, description, link and cost. Links take you to the App in iTunes.

https://sites.google.com/site/learningcontinuity/with-ipod-touches

OHIO CENTER FOR AUTISM AND LOW INCIDENCE | DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
The document archives of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence contains a couple of documents with lists of apps available for download: Apps Designed with Disability in Mind and A Spectrum of Apps for Students on the Autism Spectrum. Both are available to download as PDF documents.


SPECTRONICS: INCLUSIVE LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES
A comprehensive list of AAC apps for iPod/iPad. The list contains information about features of the apps and a rating done by an SLP. The list is updated on a regular basis.

http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac
**TeachWithYouriPad**
Wiki site created by Nathan Stevens that contains a wealth of information including basic getting started type information to lists and reviews of apps divided by education category, type, and grade level.

[http://teachwithyouripad.wikispaces.com/iPad+Apps](http://teachwithyouripad.wikispaces.com/iPad+Apps)

**The Best Educational iPhone Apps for Kids**
They “play” with all the iPhone, iPad and Android apps so you don’t have to (unless you want to).


**The iTaalk Top 30: Educational Apps to Get You Started, and All For Less Than $50**
A list of apps to get you started.

[http://www.iTaalk.org/images/iTaalk_Top_30_Starter_Apps_for_Special_Education.pdf](http://www.iTaalk.org/images/iTaalk_Top_30_Starter_Apps_for_Special_Education.pdf)

**Top 40 Free iPhone Apps 2010**
PC Magazine gathered their 40 favorite free apps to help make the most of the iPhone/iPod experience.

[http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2366274,00.asp](http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2366274,00.asp)
Chapter 5

Let’s Get Social

Various social networking resources for networking and lurking to learn more about iPods, iPads and apps for special needs children and adults.

APP CO-OP FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

This group is for developers, parents, teachers, related services and caregivers to collaborate and share ideas for Apps for the special needs population.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/137437923037124/

iTeach Special Education - iDevices in Special Education

iTeach Special Education is a open group on Facebook comprised of over 2,530 parents, educators, app developers and more who have a shared interest in mobile technology.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/iTeachSpecialEducation/
Chapter 6

Funding Resources

Apps 4 Children With Special Needs

Apps for Children with Special Needs (A4cwsn) has a program to help provide iPads to as many families who have children with special needs as they possibly can. They have a campaign to raise money as well as contributing money from their site in order to do this. To be eligible, register with A4cwsn, follow them on Twitter and/or Facebook then send them a letter detailing why your family needs an iPad and how it will help you. They compile a list and the ones they feel could benefit the most will be moved to the top of the list. The more information you give them, the more they can determine your situation. The accept photos, videos, school reports; whatever you feel comfortable sharing with them.

http://a4cwsn.com/ipad2-4u/

Autism and the Holidays: How to Afford an iPad

Blog post by writer and Autism advocate Laura Shumaker.


Help for Getting an iPad for a Child or Student with Special Needs

Downloadable fund raising pdf document compiled by dad, Kevin Sitek. Inspired by his daughter Lillie.

http://lilliespad.squarespace.com/storage/articles/
Help_Getting_An_iPad_For_Child_with_Special_Needs_v1.pdf

Hollyrod Foundation

The Hollyrod Foundation was founded in 1997 by NFL quarterback Rodney Peete and actress Holly Robinson Peete in honor of Holly’s father. HollyRod Foundation has a GIVE THE GIFT OF VOICE campaign. The HollyRod Foundation has donated many iPads to families in need.

http://www.hollyrod.org/#/holiday-2010/4545650338
IOTAALK.ORG

Since January 1, 2011, The iTaalk Autism Foundation has educated over 1000 families, service providers and caretakers on the beneficial uses of interactive technology with children with Autism and varying other special needs. Since April of 2011, they have given over 70 devices to children with an Autism Diagnosis. They are always accepting donations of used iOS devices as well as financial donations.

http://www.iTaalk.org/home.html

MODESTNEEDS.ORG

An organization that makes grants to people in four categories: Self-Sufficiency Grants, Back-to-Work Grants, Independent Living Grants and Non-Profit Grants. In their words you don’t know if you qualify unless you apply.

http://www.modestneeds.org/

ORGANIZATIONS GIFTING APPLE DEVICES

Blog post from the blog Different Iz Good: Making a Difference for Those with Differences. This post provides a

http://differentizgood.org/gift-a-voice/other-organizations-gifting-devices/

SPECIAL NEEDS APPS FOR KIDS: FUNDING SOURCES DIRECTORY

SNApps4Kids has received many questions from the SNApps4Kids community about how to get a device funded. In response they have begun to compile a list of organizations that grant iPads and similar devices to families who have children with special needs. Please use this list as a guide to explore ways to find such funding.

http://www.snapps4kids.com/funding-sources-directory/

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

This blog post On a tight budget? 7 ways to get an ipad for your child with special needs talks about creative ways others have used to get an iOS device for their special needs child.

Chapter 6

Resources for Android Apps

Android 4 Schools
Android 4 Schools is a blog written by educator Richard Byrne. Additional content is also provided by his brother, fellow educator Stephen Byrnes as well as guest bloggers. The blog provides reviews of apps that are appropriate for use in k-12 education settings. The blog also includes suggestions for how the apps could be used by students, teachers and school administrators.

http://www.android4schools.com/

Famigo
A list of family friendly apple and android apps. Famigo’s mission is to bring families together using technology. The conduct app reviews to help others discover family-friendly apps and make them easy to sort based on age or function.

http://www.famigo.com/

Jeremy Brown’s Android App List
A list created by Special Education Educator Jeremy Brown. This link is to a pdf list of his list of applications for special needs for the Android platform.

https://docs.google.com/viewer?u=a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxtaXNzY2xpY2tzY2xhr3N8Z3g6MWM3N2Q5MTNkYTI3MGU0MQ
Chapter 7

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Assistive Technology Blog: simontechologycenter.blogspot.com
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/?ref=hp#!/pages/Simon-Technology-Center/67317820730
You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/pacercenter
LiveStream: http://www.livestream.com/simontechologycenter