

## iPad and Low Tech Options



Spring LART Meeting  
May 16, 2013

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## Agenda

- Impact of iPads
- Who can use iPads?
- Pros
- Cons
- Areas to Consider
- Where can I find great apps?
- Rate Your Apps! form and spreadsheet
- Recommended apps and companies
- Low tech options

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## Local Impact of iPads

- Many students are coming to school with their own iPads.
- SET-BC funds iPads for students
- Autism Funding for home use.
- iPads are in schools and LART rooms all over the district.
- IT does not officially support these products

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## Impact?

- How have iPads affected your school and practice?

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## Who Can Use iPads?

- Pre-school and Early Years children.
- Learners with: speech, language and communication problems; literacy difficulties, developmental delays and learning difficulties; visual impairments; as well as autism.
- The iPad can also be used as a communication aid (augmentative and alternative communication – ‘AAC’).
- iPads may sometimes engage and motivate reluctant pupils/students where other approaches have failed.
- Older and more able learners – and indeed staff – may find iPad Apps that help them to organize and manage their work flow efficiently.

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## A Student's POV

- Less space: I can have my textbook open and my iPad to take notes. When I used the computer, I had to have my aide take my notes because I couldn't have both in front of me.
- I can lift the iPad myself. When I use the computer I have to have someone set it up for me. My iPad can be tucked into the side of my chair and I can reach it.
- Power: with my laptop I always had to be near an outlet or make sure the laptop was charged for the classes that didn't have outlets. My iPad is always ready to go.

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### Pros

- **Waiting:** there is no waiting for windows to start. I slide the bar and I am ready to work.
- **Independent:** because of my fatigue level often I tire out moving the mouse before I am done working. Now I can finish a worksheet because I don't have to move as much as I did.
- **Enlarging:** I don't have to worry if the photocopier is down or my aide forgot to change font size, I can enlarge text by dragging the content and scrolling.

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### Pros

- **Dictionary at hand:** All I have to do is tap on the word and my dictionary opens on the iPad. In the past, I had to highlight the word, open IE and then go to dictionary.com and paste my word. Now it is one step instead of 4-5 steps.
- **Copy and pasting** is two easy steps: highlight and copy comes right up. With the computer I need to use the mouse or the keyboard to highlight text, right click or go to edit to copy, open a second document to paste (edit paste or right click and paste), now I can paste to a clipboard within seconds instead of minutes.

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### Pros

- **Speed:** I am faster. I am independent. I am the student I can be with the iPad. With the computer I was a student. But I am not independent. I have to wait for someone to assist me. I worked three times as hard with 1/4 of the result.
- **Educational Activities:** With the iPad I can have activities that directly support my IEP goals. Practice shouldn't be boring.
- **Wireless printing:** No need to connect to a computer or printer to be able to print from across the room.

Source: <http://atclassroom.blogspot.ca/2011/01/computers-vs-ipads-in-special-education.html>

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### **iYAY!**

- What are some successes that you have had around using iPads?
- Have your students mentioned any pros to you?

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### **iPad Cons**

- Limited access possibilities – though this is gradually improving; key guards and switch access are now starting to appear
- The Home button and access to other Apps can be highly distracting.
- Over-hyped – may raise unrealistic expectations.
- You can't always try apps before you buy.

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### **Cons**

- You can't run standard computer software on them.
- Tricky to manage iTunes accounts, multiple devices and backups etc. in schools and therapy settings.
- Service providers may see iPads as a way to save money, and start delaying or blocking access to other more specialized technology - that may be needed.

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### Cons

- Puts additional support needs of professionals and learners at the mercy of commercial forces.
- Unlike with specialist equipment, little or no support or training is available from suppliers.
- Parents can buy and have ownership of their child's use of educational / communication technology.

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### Cons

- While there is a great deal of anecdotal evidence to suggest that iPads are beneficial in education and therapy, it is too early perhaps to be able to point to solid research-based evidence.
- There are no options to expand the memory or use external memory cards and/or USB memory sticks.
- To use an iPad effectively, some degree of cognitive and physical skill and flexibility is required:
  - Physical /coordination skills – accurate touch, swipe, pinch (sometimes in combination).
  - Operational skills – basic device controls, mastering navigation etc.

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### Key!

- And of course, without the proper preparation, a clear idea of what you are trying to achieve for/with your learner, and appropriate support, iPads and apps, just like any other technology, could turn out to be an expensive failure.

Source: iPads for Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning (ICALL), September 2012

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## **iGRRRRRRRR!**

- What are some frustrations that you have had around iPads?
- What are some frustrations that your students have experienced?

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## **Areas to Consider**

- Physical management
- Purchasing apps
- Curriculum Integration
- Policy and Procedure

Source: Adapted from  
<http://ipads.nsseo.wikispaces.net/ipad+management>

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## **Physical Management of the iPad**

- You can only sync an iPad to 5 computers-- determine where those computers will be located
- Who will be responsible for setting up the iPads?
- Who will be responsible for syncing the iPads?
- How will iPads be labeled and inventoried?
- Where will they be stored when not in use?
- Will staff or students be allowed to take them home?

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## Physical Management

- What type of cases will you use?
- Who is responsible for periodic cleaning of the iPads?
- Who is responsible for synching and updating system software on the iPad?
- Which settings will you enable/disable? Who will have the password for the iPad setting?
  - you can disable the app store, YouTube, iTunes
  - you can restrict the content based on age
  - you can disable the purchase of apps inside apps
- Wi-Fi? Printers?

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## Purchasing Apps

- Do you have a budget for apps? How much is the budget for the year? How will the monies be allocated?
- Be sure to set up your iPads with generic school/district iTunes account so that the school/district owns the apps purchased.
- If it is set up with an individual iTunes account then when that person leaves the program, you have the potential of losing all the apps purchased under their name.

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## Purchasing Apps

- How will you be reimbursed for apps?
- So far, it seems to be school's call on purchasing and reimbursement (iTunes receipts vs. iTunes cards)
- How do you decide which apps to purchase? Will it be individual choice? School wide choice? District choice? How often will you purchase new apps?
- What about sharing apps?  
<http://learninginhand.com/blog/classroom-ipod-touches-ipads-dos-and-donts.html>

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### **Curriculum Integration**

- The iPad itself is a tool. How will this tool be used to support your students learning?
- Have you set a purpose for the iPads and apps?
- What are you expecting to change as a result of using iPads and apps with students?
- Do you have a way to measure student progress?

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### **Policy/Procedure**

- Does your acceptable use policy cover the use of iPads/iPods and other mobile devices?
- Do you need a sign out form for distribution of iPads?
- Will you have a policy/procedure for breakage, loss, damage?

Source: Adapted from  
<http://ipads.nsseo.wikispaces.net/ipad+management>

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### **Where Can I Find Great Apps?**

- Success and usefulness of the iPad is based largely due to the range of apps available.
- Selecting apps are always problematic as they can be a waste of money- No returns!

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## Features To Look For

- Access options
- Editable content (e.g. personalization)
- Tutorials, guides, and support
- Free or Lite versions
- Customer ratings or reviews
- Data tracking
- Multiple students
- Progression of skills
- In-app purchases?

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## App Searching

- Search using the App store directly (<http://www.apple.com/ca/education/apps/>)
- Google search and insert key words (e.g. best phonics apps). Search app name and "review".
- App search engines: [www.kindertown.com](http://www.kindertown.com) and [www.quixey.com](http://www.quixey.com) and <http://www.commonensemedia.org/>
- Websites and blogs ([iCALL Ch. 5](#))
- Twitter
- ALWAYS know the skill you want to work on and search for the skill.
- Developer's reputation
- Ultimately, what is the best way...

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## Ask a Friend!

- The best way to find a good app is to ask a friend or colleague.
- We need to find a way to share the apps we love with others so they can benefit and not waste money.

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## SD #73 Rate Your Apps! Form

- <http://goo.gl/Emi87>
- <http://goo.gl/j4obJ>

These links can be found at:

- <http://speech.blogs.sd73.bc.ca/links/>
- What are some other ways to share your app reviews or help other LARTS?

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## Favourite Apps

- Speech Sounds
  - ArtikPix (Lite) 
  - Articulation Station Pro (Lite) 
  - Tiga Talk Campfire Adventure 
- Symbol-based AAC
  - Proloquo2Go 
  - TouchChat HD 
- Text-Based AAC
  - Verbally 

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## Favourite Apps

- Photo/Picture Stories
  - Pictello 
  - My Little Story Maker (free) 
  - Book Creator 
  - Super Duper Story Maker 
- Math
  - Eddie's Party 
  - Math Ninja 

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## Favourite Apps

- Vocabulary/Semantics
  - Kangaroo Island Photo Classifying 
  - [www.kindergarten.com](http://www.kindergarten.com) apps (e.g. ABA Flashcards) 
  - My First 1000 Words (Alligator Apps) 
  - Language TheraAppy 
- Photo Tools
  - Skitch 
  - PhotoComic 

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## Favourite Apps

- Cause and Effect
  - Itsy Bitsy HD 
  - Sound Shaker 
  - Finger Paint with Sounds 
  - Anything from Inclusive Technology (switch accessible apps)   
<http://www.inclusive.co.uk/apps>
- Social Skills
  - The Social Express 

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## Favourite Apps

- Reading (text to speech)
  - SpeakIT 
  - iBooks
  - Turn "speak selection" on in accessibility settings
- Assignments/Productivity/Organization
  - PDF Expert 
  - Quickoffice Pro HD 
  - Penultimate (handwritten notes) 
  - Evernote 
  - Dropbox 

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## Favourite Apps

- Writing and Note taking

- iWordQ 

- Abilipad 

- Clicker Sentences 

- Clicker Docs 

- Planning and Organization

- Inspiration Maps (Lite) 

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## Favourite Apps

- Printing

- Letter School (Lite) 

- Dexteria (fine motor as well) 

- Dexteria Jr. 

- Letter Reflex (for reversals) 

- Letter Sounds

- Starfall ABCs 

- Early Fun

- Anything from Toca Boca 

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## Favourite Companies

- <http://www.assistiveware.com/>
- <http://tocaboca.com/>
- <http://www.superduperinc.com/>
- <http://www.grasshopperapps.com/>
- <http://www.dexteria.net/>
- <http://www.duckduckmoose.com/>
- <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/products/apps/clicker-apps.aspx>
- <http://www.mayer-johnson.ca/apps/>

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## Favourite Companies

- <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/apps>
- <http://www.linguisystems.com/products/product/appsearch>
- <https://evernote.com/>
- [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

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## Take Homes

- <http://speech.blogs.sd73.bc.ca/links/>
- Slides of this handout online
- iCALL booklet

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## More From...

- Teena Mangan
- Sandi Soll

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