IS THERE AN APP FOR THAT?

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Using Apps in Storytime

By Megan Egbert

WHY USE APPS?

- American Academy of Pediatrics:
  - No screen time under 2
  - Limited screen time for all to 1-2 hours
- Reality
  - 38% of children under 2 have used a mobile device (up from 10% in 2011)
  - ¾ of kids have access to mobile devices at home

Research from Child Trends', summarized in Kristin Anderson Moore Lecture "Too Young for Technology"

One More Tool in the Toolbox

Media Mentor.

Questions to Consider

Lisa Guernsey's 3 C's

Content

Context

Individual **C**hild

App Evaluation

	Consider…	Questions to Ask
App Function	Purpose of app	What does the app do? Educational? Entertainment?
	Learning potential	What can kids learn? How are skills acquired or enhanced using this app?
	Level of interactivity	Engaging with a great learning approach? Encourage further exploration?
	Usability	Who is the intended audience? Appropriate for your child?
	Recommended by others	What do the reviews say about the app? What are app store ratings?
	Privacy	Does the app capture user information about the child? Disclosures about sharing practices readily available? Targeted advertising allowed?
	Exposure to advertising	Content of ads? Placement of ads? Frequency of ads?
	Parental controls	Available in the app? Control using device?
App Design	Cost	Is the app free or fee-based? Is it free to download but with In-App purchases?
	Quality of text	Language grammatically correct and free of typos? Vocabulary level used?
	Quality of graphics, images and photos	Visually appealing? Age-appropriate?
	Quality of audio	Narrator easy to understand? What is the tone of voice? Volume levels consistent?
	Functionality	Does the app work? Does it crash? Does it frequently require an update?

Best Practices for Storytime

- Intentional
- Appropriate
- Balanced

- Integrated
- Interactive
- Co-engagement

Best Apps in Storytime

Felt Board by Software Smoothie

$2.99

"Design scenes, dress up characters and let your imagination soar as you invent your own stories with Felt Board. Especially designed for imaginative play, storytelling and learning, Felt Board is perfect for children, families, teachers and therapists."

Best Apps in Storytime

Sock Puppets by Micro Software, Inc.

Free

"Sock Puppets lets you create your own lip-synched videos and share them on Facebook and YouTube. Add Puppets, props, scenery, and backgrounds and start creating. Hit the record button and the puppets automatically lip-synch to your voice."
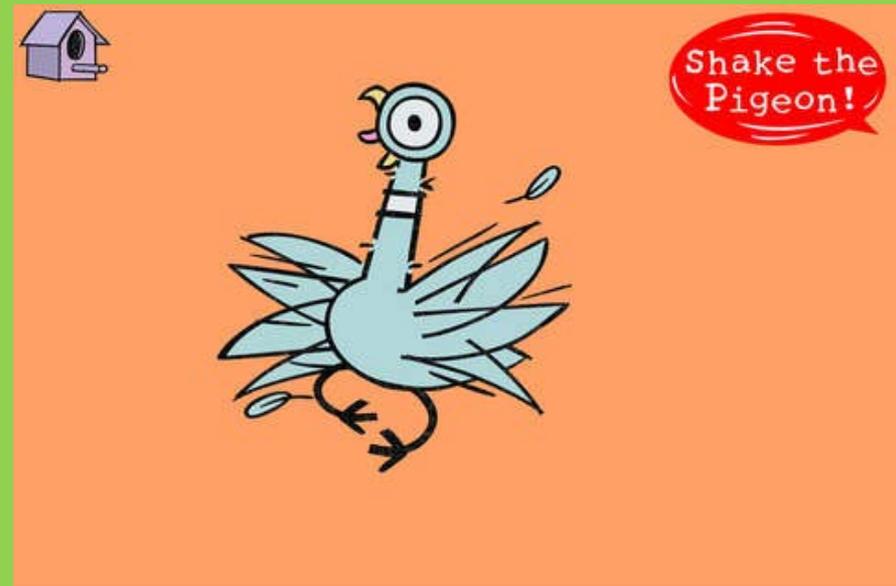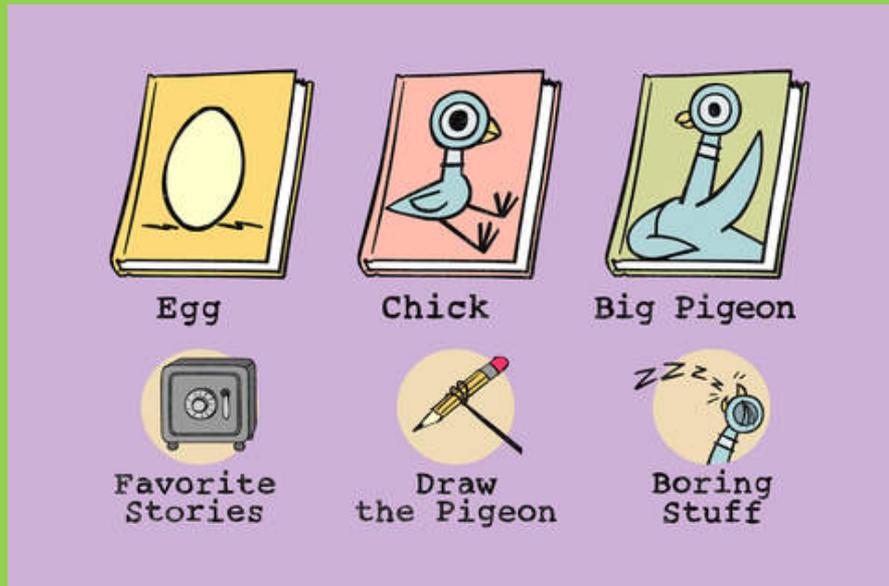
Best Apps in Storytime

Don't Let the Pigeon Run this App by Disney
$5.99

"Three-time Caldecott Honoree Mo Willems brings the Pigeon to the digital screen with this original, feature-rich, animated app."

Best Apps in Storytime

Big Bird's Words

$.99

** 2014 Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award Winner of Mobile Apps: Educational **

** 2014 Interactive Media Award for 'Best in Class' for the Education category **

Choose Your Word!

Customize every visit: YOU pick the word.

Uses your phone's camera!

At home or on the go!
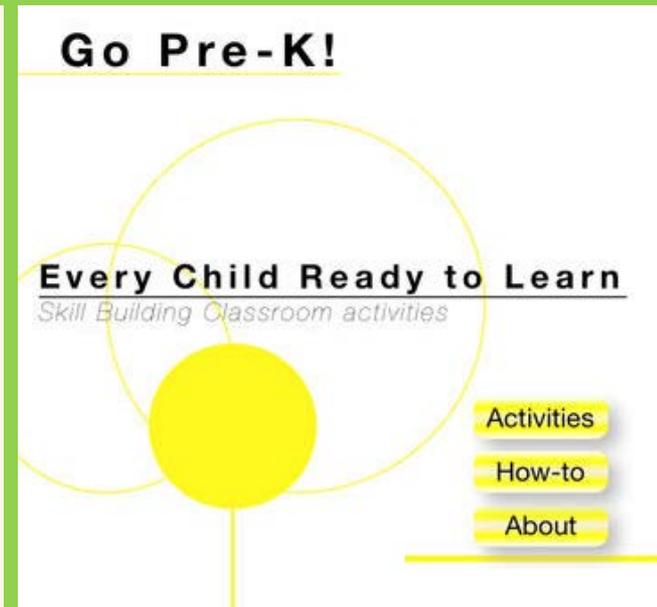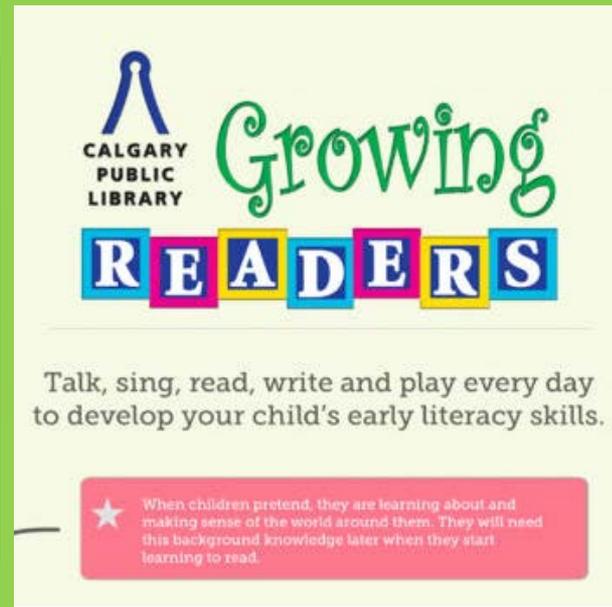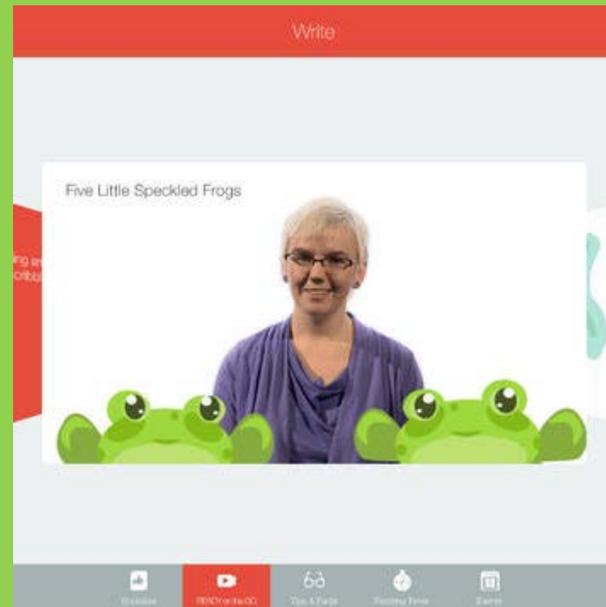
Best Apps in Storytime

My A-Z
Free

My A-Z is more than just alphabet flashcards for your preschooler: It's an exploratory learning project for everyone to do together! Every child begins building their ability to read and write by learning the letters in their name and their surrounding environment: S is for Salt, M is for Mommy, B is for Butterfly.

Apps for Other Things

ACPL Family
By Allen County Public Library

Growing Readers
By Calgary Public Library

Go Pre-K!
By Lee Pesky Learning Center, Inc

Resources

Research

- NAEYC Position Statement on Children and Technology
- Fred Rogers Center
- New America EdCentral "Seeding Reading" Articles.

Practical

- Little eLit
- Book: Digital Decisions, Choosing the right Technology Tools for Early Education
- Book: Teaching in a Digital Age, Smart Tools for Age 3 to Grade 3

Contact Me

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