



## **Edition Five**

# 'Special Apps for Very Special Learners'

**January/February 2021**

***Flo Longhorn***



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This symbol flags use of 'baby' or 'toddler' in the app description - the app can be person-appropriate not age-appropriate. Ignore the word, it's okay!

The Apps lists for May, June, September and November/December 2020 are still available. For a copy, send an e-mail to: [flopml@gmail.com](mailto:flopml@gmail.com)





Here is the fifth Apps List for you to use with very special children and adults. There is also some information about hugging, with ideas for hugs even in this pandemic time.

I am really pleased to hear about the big increase in very special learners (school or college) receiving tablets through the English government scheme, to enable remote home learning. I have heard of whole schools having 100% success for this amazing provision of iPads. I have just checked with the government and the offer is still on with money from January 2021. So - any educational settings out there, who have been **LAZY**, get a move on! Go for iPads!!



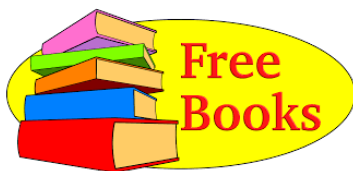
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19#more-laptops-and-tablets-will-be-available-in-2021>



Unfortunately, there are fewer android apps available recently, Apple seems to have the main market for apps which is unfortunate. I shall keep on seeking.

***Best sensory wishes,  
Keep safe - be strong,  
Flo Longhorn***





I have put all of my multisensory education books on a website to download for free. Visit the link below to access them:



<https://sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home>

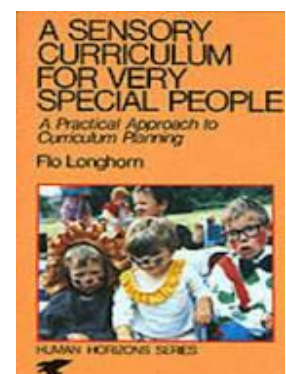
Here is a list of what is available. The 'Sensology Workout' book is very important, 'waking up the senses' so learning can be engaged!

Flo's books:

- iPads, Apps and Special Learners (2012) - Way out of date but may be of interest.
- Sensory Art for Very Special People (2010)
- **The Sensology Workout: Waking Up the Senses** (2007)
- Literacy for Very Special People (2001)
- Numeracy for Very Special People (2000)
- Sensory Drama for Very Special People (2000)
- Sex Education and Sexuality for Very Special People - A Sensory Approach (1997)
- Sensory Cookery for Very Special People - A Practical Approach (1997)
- Enhancing Education Through the Use of Ultraviolet Light & Fluorescing Materials (1997)
- Planning a Multisensory Massage Programme for Very Special People (1993)
- Prerequisites to Learning for Very Special People (1993)
- Religious Education for Very Special Children (1993)
- Sensory Science - National Curriculum for Very Special People (1993)
- **Planning a Sensory Curriculum and Sensory Banks for the Very Special Child - A Practical Approach to Curriculum Planning (1984)** (Yes, 1984 - my first book on multisensory education, self-published 37 years ago - never before distributed - now available for free!). The later version was published as:



- Sensory Curriculum for Very Special People - I do not have publishing rights for this, but you can order on amazon.co.uk or many bookshop sites or stores.





## FOUR MORE BOOKS FOR FREE DOWNLOAD FROM FLO LONGHORN

- ☑ 'Planning a Sensory Curriculum and Sensory Banks for the Very Special Child: A Practical Approach to Curriculum Planning' - Flo Longhorn, 1984
- ☑ 'A Feast of Music: Music and Drama for All' - Volume One - Diane Haylor & Sue Bradshaw with Flo Longhorn, 2005
- ☑ 'A Feast of Music: Music and Drama for All' - Volume Two - Diane Haylor & Sue Bradshaw with Flo Longhorn, 2005
- ☑ 'Making Friends with Johanna: Communicating with Very Special People' - Johanna de Haas and family, edited by Flo Longhorn, 2003

Download at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home>

Edition Five of "[Apps for Very Special Learners](#)", January - February 2021

Download at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home>



# Hugs, Hugs and More Hugs!



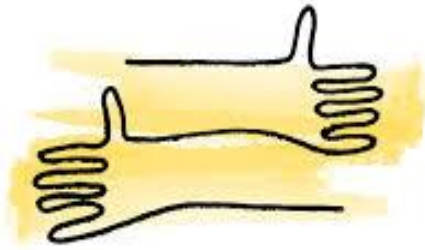
A reminder of what is more important than any electronic device in the world! I hope that by watching these natural affectionate toddler hugs, this will remind us all of how much all of have to do to reset our emotional bodies and minds.

Click on the image below, then on watch on YouTube -  
'Babies can't stop hugging each other-Rohan Ahmad'.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxvGDTYBVGk>

Don't forget that we have to ask permission to hug. Nothing could be worse than having to endure a hug that has arrived without any warning or signal. Permission does not need words, it may be with body language, a physical sign or facial expression. Some humans cannot bear to be hugged, a nightmare. Perhaps they need to see hugs from afar or with a special item they treasure. Try hugging that piece of Lego or rubber band, hugging splashing water...



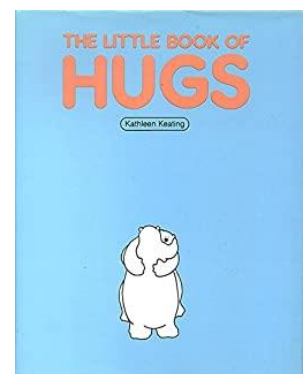
One special woman, Supriya, would only let me hug her elbow. I was honoured to do this. Jeffrey loved being hugged so long as you hugged his back.

Here are some alternatives to hugging from the Marie Curie Organisation. I like the idea of a box containing a heart made of cloth, to take out and hand to a loved person.

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/blog/alternatives-to-hugging-for-socially-distanced-times/276743>

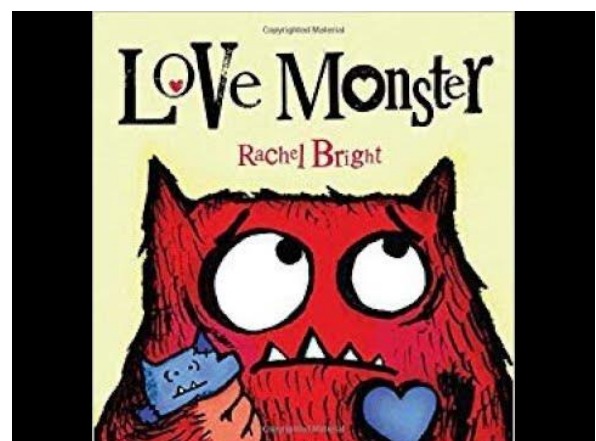
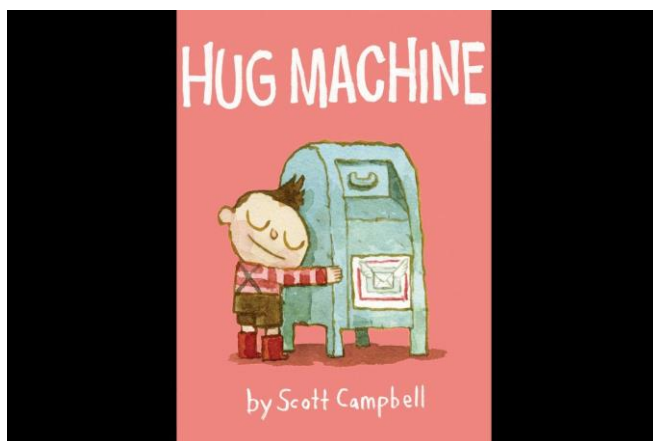
## Hugging Books

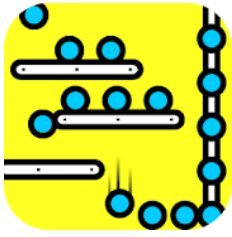
This is a little book I have used for many years, as the foundation for learning how to hug in appropriate different ways. Great for special teenagers, who are still hugging legs! It is still available on Amazon for about 8p!



[www.amazon.co.uk/Little-Book-Hugs-Kathleen-Keating/dp/0207152977/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+little+book+of+hugs+kathleen+keating&qid=1609931409&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Little-Book-Hugs-Kathleen-Keating/dp/0207152977/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+little+book+of+hugs+kathleen+keating&qid=1609931409&sr=8-1)

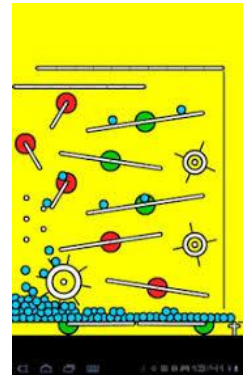
Click the covers below to hear (YouTube) these books, being read. They are 'Hug Machine' [[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYNT\\_9gGigA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYNT_9gGigA)] by Scott Campbell and 'Love Monster' [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIva59P4HiY>] by Rachel Bright. Then order the books for real reading!





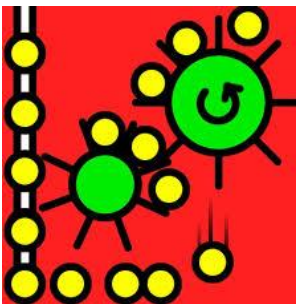
**Rolling Rolling Falling Yellow (Free)** - random tracking, fixating.

Just touch or swipe the screen and coloured balls roll down slopes, are carried by moving gears or blown along by windmills. A more sophisticated viewing app for students who are keen to just touch and then follow random tracking movements. There are two apps in red or yellow.



[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.ne.atech.android.rolling1.free&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.ne.atech.android.rolling1.free&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/rolling-rolling-falling-yellow/id518589797>

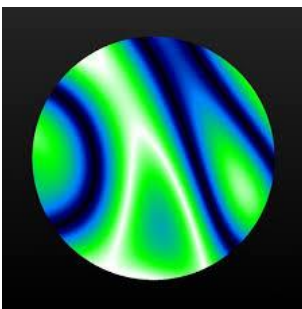


**Rolling Rolling Falling Red.**

[https://download.cnet.com/Rolling-Rolling-Falling-Red-for-iPad/3000-20415\\_4-75759937.html](https://download.cnet.com/Rolling-Rolling-Falling-Red-for-iPad/3000-20415_4-75759937.html)

On Android Amazon you must pay (£2.99).

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Atech-Inc-Rolling-Fallilng-3D/dp/B00C7LU1IG>



**Plasma! Free** (99p brings you more colour variations) - relax, passive watching, stress release.

Be careful with searching the title as I found that I was taken to apps for real blood plasma! To avoid this, put in the name 'Carl Gorringer' for the search.

This app is like an old-fashioned lava lamp, you do not have to do anything just watch. Make your own lava lamp as a good extension of just watching the app. Real life rules okay!



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/plasma/id1449127483> - (Not on Android).

**Pinterest** have a page on many ways of making such a lava lamp. Have a look:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/maxx1b3/lava-lamp/>



**Lines! (Free)** Carl Gorringer - passive viewing, abstract art.

This has the same simple level of passive viewing with fast moving lines on a black background. The line colours are intense and engrossing.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/lines/id390391751>

Not on Android yet.



**Joe Wicks** - He must be the only keep-fit expert in the world for everyone! He does have his own app, but the energy, male voice and enthusiasm is great on a white board for a keep fit session for learners and adults!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhHY8mOQ5eo>

### **Eye Gaze**



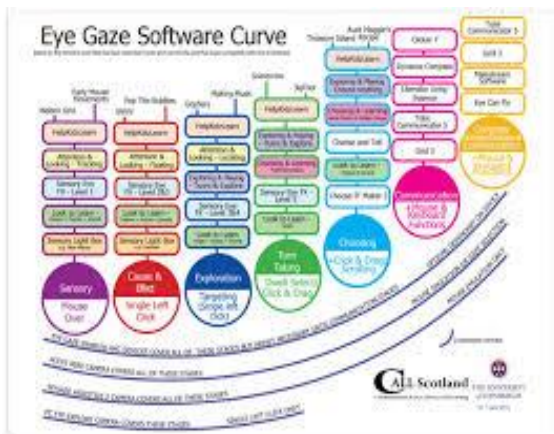
For an update on the world of eye gaze, CallScotland have an archived webinar (2019) which is very useful.

Presented by Joanna Courtney, (thank you!) this webinar provides an update on the latest eye gaze technology and software available for use with a wide range of learners.

It includes use of eye gaze for accessing curricula, as well as current eye-gaze, enabled AAC devices available. Relevant online resources and learning materials are included to enhance the use of eye gaze technology in the classroom.

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/professional-learning/webinars/WEB146/>





There is also a recently updated software curve that is very useful for tracking progress from CallScotland. Well done!

[www.callscotland.org.uk/information/eye-gaze/](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/information/eye-gaze/)



**Ian Bean**

Don't forget Ian Bean and his amazing free IT resources.

<https://www.ianbean.co.uk/downloads/senict-resources/>

He has a good twitter stream too:

<https://twitter.com/senict/status/1108451656394510338>



**Choice Board Creator (Free)** - simple communication.

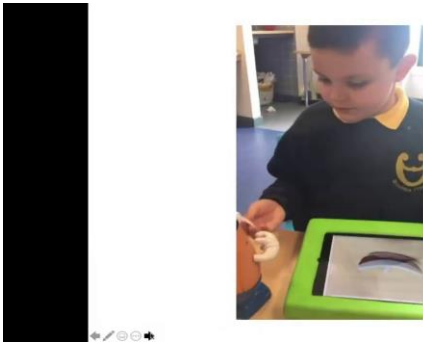
<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/choiceboard-creator/id453988580>

Choice Board Creator is a simple app that provides flexibility in creating choice boards. This is to enable learners to make and communicate their very own choices.

**Webinar 2020** click below (from **CallScotland**).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaOXaD4x6lo>

'Using Choice Board Creator App for Learners with Complex Needs to Make Choices'



The webinar is based on the work at Broomlea Complex Learning Needs school in Glasgow. Thank you, school! This is a pilot school for the Scottish Connected Learning programme. Great to see video clips of great youngsters doing their very best communications.

The head teacher leads the presentation (great to see a head committed and involved in such a venture)!

Comment: 'How Choice Board Creator is being used in many practical and creative ways to support communication and she will discuss the exciting opportunities and possibilities to develop this further now that learners have their own personal iPads.'

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/choiceboard-creator/id453988580>

Unfortunately, not on Android.



**Blob Chorus Ear Training (Free)** - range of sounds, fun.

A fun little game where you listen to the blob noise and then try and choose the same sound when the chorus sing. I failed every time but such fun as the blobs sing and wobble. They splatter when you choose the wrong sound. Crikey!



<https://www.amazon.co.uk/eChalk-Ltd-Blob-Chorus-Training/dp/BOOCXMPMYW>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/blob-chorus-ear-training/id484567131>



**Talking Gugl (Free)** - interaction, cause and effect.

Have a peep to see Gugl react to tickles! ▶▶▶▶

Gugl loves to play and can take quite a pounding, still managing to bounce back.

He can repeat everything you say with his funny voice.

You can poke and tickle him and watch his reactions. Poke him, he'll yell out and shout at you. When he sneezes, don't forget to say, "Bless you".

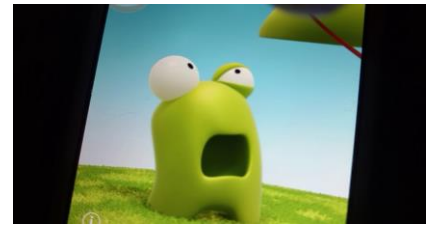
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/talking-gugl/id588373613>

<https://baixarapk.gratis/en/app/588373613/talking-gugl>

He also has a friend called Carl.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/talking-carl/id417373312>

<https://baixarapk.gratis/en/app/417373312/talking-carl>



**Easy Beats Maker & Music Drum (Free)** - tap, choice, music.

Really good vibratory, echoing sounds and effects. Easy large square buttons to tap. Great for students, nothing babyish about this app!

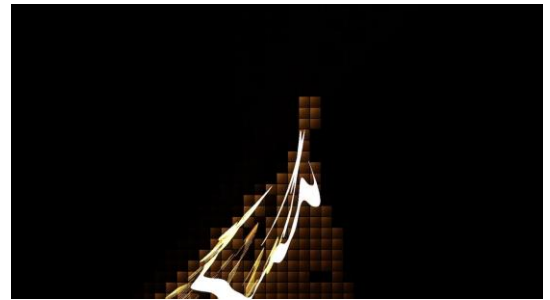
<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/easy-beats-maker-music-drum/id1432087201>

Not on Android.



**Magical Rays (Free)** - spaced out sounds and music.

Swirling neon strands whizz around your fingertips with modern music to match.



A little peep at the effects here:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Digital-Genie-Magical-Rays/dp/B00AXU6K0G>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/magical-rays/id445795692>



**My Buddha (Free)** (with in-app purchases) - calm meditation, soothing.

Mmmmmmmmm mantra chants and calm, beautiful still images.

This app is for wet playtimes on Friday or calm staff meetings! Or family frazzle whenever!

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/my-buddha/id492074397> (Not on Android).





**Frax (Free)** - intense designs, moving images, pinching fingers.

Extraordinary colours/images with density and depth. They are well worth a try for the disinterested learner. They may strike a chord. You can change motion, colours, lights and texture so very creative. Just tap the bottom of the screen for

controls. Tap top of screen for wealth of fractals. I love the feeling of actually entering into the screen.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/fra/id568827824>

Not on Android so far.



**Baby Bubbles Babble Free (Free)** - pop, pointy finger, pop sounds.



A simple bubble pop game with an animal in the bubble who makes their sound, when the bubble is popped. The background changes occasionally.

<https://apps.apple.com/tt/app/bubbles-for-toddlers-sounds/id672673297>

<https://www.amazon.com/romeLab-Bubbles-for-Toddlers-FREE/dp/B008F8CF5C>



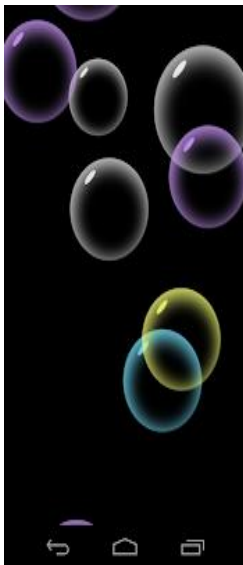
There is a bubble company in the UK with all sorts of sensory bubbles, looks fun. Have a peep!

[bubblyheaven.co.uk](http://bubblyheaven.co.uk)



There is an excellent list of music to accompany bubbles plus loads of ideas. They are based in Stonehouse, Glasgow. Wish I lived in Scotland!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=527278444689387>



**Baby Bubbles Babble (Free)** - cause and effect, popping finger.



Here is why this bubble popper is so good, from the mother who created it:

"When my daughter was about one year old, she loved bubble popping games. Unfortunately, most of them are insanely expensive, have annoying ads that she accidentally activates, or have complicated setting screens that she gets trapped in."

"So, as a first birthday present for her, I developed Baby Bubbles Free. The first 100% free bubble popping game for babies and toddlers that also has NO ADS and NO INTERFACE. Just plain, simple, happy bubble, popping fun."

"Besides being free, ad free, and having no interface, Baby Bubbles Free offers:

- A soothing lullaby soundtrack.
- Bubbles of 7 different colours.
- Smart multi-touch support -- pop bubbles without lifting a finger, pop multiple bubbles at once.
- Vibration on each pop (if your device supports it).
- iPad support."

"My daughter is seven now. She still enjoys playing with this app sometimes".  
(If the music and giggles get too much, just turn down the sound for the bubbles and black background only)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.viapx.babybubbles&hl=en\\_GB&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.viapx.babybubbles&hl=en_GB&gl=US)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/baby-bubbles-babble/id842788895>



**EDA Play Toby (Free)** - visual play, assessment and 'next steps in looking'.

To see it in action, click below on the YouTube links.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POz1DRkdEe4>



**Yes No - I Can Do (Free)** - communication.

Simple apps to offer a chance for choice and a chance to say NO.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/yes-no-from-i-can-do-apps/id635649909>



**Yes No (Free)** - communication - Android app.

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.utopiaprogramming.android.mason&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.utopiaprogramming.android.mason&hl=en_US&gl=US)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/yes-no-button-free/id593299519>

## Yes/No Article to Read (very interesting!).

The Talk Link charity has a good article on understanding 'yes-no' without using technology. Speech therapists Bridget Thompson and Pariya Behnami provided the article on the web from New Zealand. Well done!

<http://talklink.org.nz/resources/tip-of-the-month-september-2017-teaching-yes-and-no-to-confirm-or-reject>

## Not forgetting!



*Shut Up!* In many languages.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/shut-up/id366404998>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.knowledgequizgames.shutupbutton&hl=en&gl=US>



*Bomb Timer* (**Free**) - shock, horror!

Very simple, set the time to wait then light the fuse and wait - boom!  
So much more exciting than a boring stopwatch!

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bomb-timer/id419204267>

Not on Android.





**Drum for Toddlers (Free)** tapping two hands together.



The icon shows the screen that remains constant so the drummer can repeat an action without too much thinking involved. Great for beginners and those who like big percussion noises.

<https://appadvice.com/app/drum-for-toddlers/1066821099>

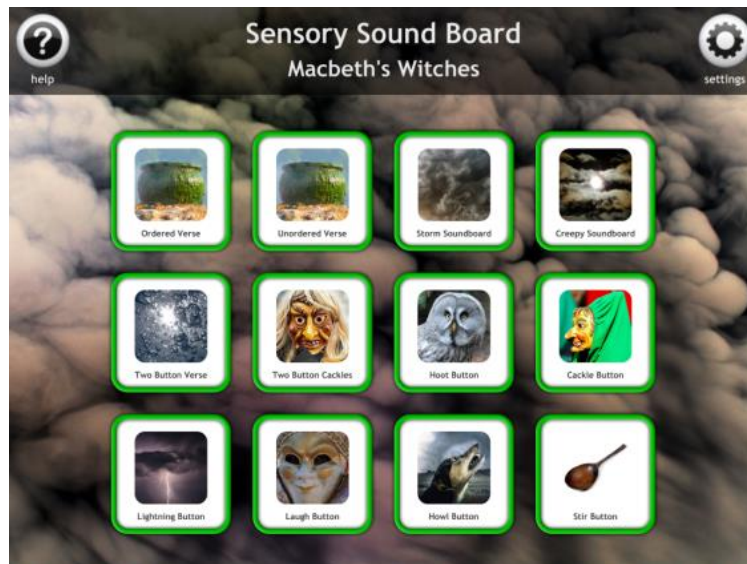
Not on Android.



**Witches (Free)**

Drama in this free app, with witches from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. Lots of info on the [www.senteacher.org](http://www.senteacher.org) website and you can download the app from there. Clear pictures and sounds suited to every level of understanding.

<https://www.senteacher.org/downloads/sensory/84/MacbethWitchesSensory.html>



The pictures and sounds correlate with the story of Macbeth in its simplest form, witches and all!



**Animal Sounds - Fun Toddler Game (Free)** (additional sounds for 99p) - sounds.



Animal sounds with clear pictures. While the listener (me included) may not recognise the sound of an eagle, finch or bee, the sound difference is so remote from human sounds - they have impact.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/animal-sounds-fun-toddler-game/id445259736>



**Elephant Art (Free)** (add-ons available) - multisensory - with a bang!

This app may seem rather inappropriate, but it is not! Just look at it and observe/feel all the movement, colour, unexpected sounds, engaging graphics - a multisensory bombardment that may just awaken an interest. Try it following an app of soothing movement and sound to see if there is a reaction, perhaps a communication not seen before.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/elephant-art-coloring-full/id1476262495>


## The 'age appropriate' argument and SEND

A very worth-while article is found on the inclusive teach website. It is on the topic of what exactly does the term 'age appropriate' mean. It certainly applies to the apps I recommend that have a title such as baby, toddlers, or little ones.

<https://inclusiveteach.com/2021/01/15/the-age-appropriate-argument-and-send/>

**Nostalgia** - here is the original Montessori list of **age-appropriate jobs** seen appropriate to certain age bands - read and ponder. Perhaps it may be seen as child exploitation in 2021?

### Age-Appropriate Chores for Children



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<h4>Ages 2-3</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Put toys in toy box</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stack books on shelf</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Place dirty clothes in laundry hamper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Throw trash away</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Carry firewood</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fold washcloths</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Set the table</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fetch diapers &amp; wipes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust baseboards</li></ul>	<h4>Ages 6-7</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Gather trash</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fold towels</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust mop floors</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Empty dishwasher</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Match clean socks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Weed garden</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rake leaves</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Peel potatoes or carrots</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Make salad</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Replace toilet paper roll</li></ul>	<h4>Ages 10-11</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean bathrooms</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum rugs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean countertops</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Deep clean kitchen</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare simple meal</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mow lawn</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bring in mail</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Do simple mending (hems, buttons, etc.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sweep out garage</li></ul>
<h4>Ages 4-5</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed pets</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wipe up spills</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Put away toys</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Make the bed</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Straighten bedroom</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Water houseplants</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sort clean silverware</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare simple snacks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Use hand-held vacuum</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Clear kitchen table</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dry and put away dishes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Disinfect doorknobs</li></ul>	<h4>Ages 8-9</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Load dishwasher</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Change light bulbs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wash laundry</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hang/fold clean clothes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust furniture</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Spray off patio</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Put groceries away</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Scramble eggs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bake cookies</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Walk dogs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sweep porches</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wipe off table</li></ul>	<h4>Ages 12 and up</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mop floors</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Change overhead lights</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wash/ vacuum car</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Trim hedges</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Paint walls</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Shop for groceries w/list</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cook complete dinner</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bake bread or cake</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Do simple home repairs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Iron clothes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Watch younger siblings</li></ul>



**Sight-Sim (Free)** - assessment of vision and simulation of visual problems.

<https://www.sight-sim.scot.nhs.uk/try/>

**Note:** There are instructions on the website above for downloading to MacBook, Windows or mobile phones. As this is a Java 'run time' file (.jar), most web browsers will show a warning next to the download - with 'Cancel' or 'Keep' options. On Windows machines, the message in the download bar is: "This type of file can harm your computer. Do you want to keep signtsim-1.0.0-SNA...jar anyway?" with buttons 'Keep' or 'Discard'. Selecting 'Keep' will then complete the download and the file name will be displayed on the download bar. Simply right click on the 'Open' option to run the application.

I found out about this useful app from a source in the USA, to find out that it is Scottish and developed by the NHS access in August 2020! Bet some Scottish readers do not even know about it!



**Charlotte Cushman** has written this information, found on [www.pathstoliteracy.org](http://www.pathstoliteracy.org).

"From the very good Sight-Sim is a free online tool that simulates how things might look to someone with a visual impairment. Designed for families and people working with children with visual impairments, the site uses a child's measurements of visual acuity and contrast sensitivity to alter images by the measured amount. It shows the original image and the altered image side-by-side, so that a person with typical vision can understand the level of the visual impairment."

"You can use their library of images, or your own images. This allows users to individualise the simulation for a specific purpose for each child. For example, you could use pictures of the child's own surroundings. Such as stairs at home, their classroom, a textbook, communication system, or anything else they may struggle to access due to their visual impairment."