



CHOOSING APPS & SOFTWARE

Before choosing Reading apps and/or software, be sure you know at which stage of the Reading Process the child is operating. When you know where on the literacy continuum a child is at, you can more wisely choose reading software and apps that are most suited to his/her needs.

1. Phonology and Phonemic Awareness

For a preschooler, tasks must involve phonological and phonemic awareness development which includes developing the core foundational understanding that spoken words are made of sounds, and that these sounds can be manipulated to form other spoken words. Students must also understand that there are voiced and unvoiced sounds. E.g. /k/ voiced = /g/. No matter what the age, students must be able to hear the difference between long and short vowels because so many of the English spelling patterns are dependent on being able to differentiate between the two. E.g. the vowel sounds in “kite” and “kit” require different spelling applications. For very young children teach them the short vowels and consonant sounds before introducing letter names.

2. Phonics – Decoding (Reading) and Encoding (Spelling)

For K-2 children (and older students not yet reading), tasks must again ensure that the child’s phonemic awareness is developed. With that in place, phonics can be introduced. Phonics introduces the grapheme (letter) we use to represent each phoneme (sound). Once single sound connections are anchored, students can then proceed to blend consonants with vowels to begin to decode words. The structure of the English language is complex and students need to be introduced to those structures gradually and cumulatively. E.g. the long ō sound can be spelt in many different ways: rose, road, though, low, so.

3. Sight Words

Some words do not follow regular decoding rules e.g. “to”, “does”, “have” and just need to be remembered. If a student is having difficulty with tricky sight words, then look for an app that provides opportunities to apply them in the context of a sentence. Caution: Never begin reading instruction using purely a sight-word approach. This gives children the impression that reading is just about memorizing the look of words.

4. Morphology (Word Derivation)

As decoding and Fluency increases, students can be introduced to the parts of the language that influence meaning. E.g. the prefix “inter” means “between”. The Latin root “rupt” means “break”. Knowing the meaning of the parts of words helps students to understand the meaning of unfamiliar words and in turn assists with spelling.

5. Assistive Technology and Audio Books

Don’t forget to make use of audiobooks and podcasts to ensure students have access to good literature and curriculum content. Knowing how to touch type is invaluable and there are software programs just for that. Also search out Voice to Text and Text to Voice options; especially for upper primary and high school students.

Disclaimer:

The following list does not constitute endorsement by the Central Coast Dyslexia Association of any software programme or App. Teachers and parents need to assess the value of these resources based on the specific needs of the student.

USEFUL RESOURCES AS LISTED ON ADA WEBSITE

Touch Type Read and Spell - www.ttrs.co.uk
Text Help Read and Write Gold – www.texthelp.com
Educational Software - www.spectronicsinoz.com
Mindmapping software – www.inspiration.com
Readplease – www.readplease.com (free reading software)
Speech to text software – www.voicerecognition.com.au
Browsealoud – www.browsealoud.com (Free text to speech for websites)
Ace Spelling Dictionary – www.silvereye.com.au
My Study Bar – www.eduapps.co.uk – Free reading, predictive writing, voice recognition software.
MUSP – www.cw.routledge.com – Programme to do at home to help spelling.
The Word Wasp – www.bookdepository.co.uk (Free shipping to Australia)
Speaking phonetic spellchecker – www.franklin.com
Livescribe smartpens – www.livescribe.com
Quickvoice – Free app that acts like a Dictaphone.
Idea Sketch – Mindmapping app
Dragon dictate – Voice to text app
Soundnote – An app that is similar to a livescribe pen.
Image to Text – Photographs text and reads it back.

IPAD APPS

Quickvoice – Free app that acts like a Dictaphone.
Idea Sketch – Mindmapping app
Dragon dictate – Voice to text app
Soundnote – An app that is similar to a livescribe pen.
Image to Text – Photographs text and reads it back.
Nessy Fingers (touch typing)
Nessy Reading and Spelling
Hairy Phonics (1-4_
Hairy Words (sight/ High Frequency words
Chimp Fu Syllables

OTHER RESOURCES

EasyRead www.morganlearning.com
IDL www.eida.org
Khan's Academy
Phonics Hero
Reading Doctor
Word Shark
Fast ForWord www.fastforWORD.com.au
ClaroRead www.east-west.com.au
Dolphin Software <http://www.yourdolphin.com>
WYNN (What you need now) <http://www.quantumrlv.com.au>
Apple built in technology <https://www.apple.com/au/accessibility/ios/NaturalReader>
<http://www.naturalreaders.com>
IDA Resources USA <http://www.interdys.org/ewebeditpro5/upload/KPSJul2013.pdf>
[Apps and Programmes](#)
Voice Dream Writer- Word Processor with text to voice <http://bdmtech.blogspot.com.au/>