

## Early Years recommended apps

Some of these apps have in-app purchasing

### Apps



Nessy apps: Hairy Letters, Hairy Phonics 1,2&3, Hairy words 1&2 (£2.99 each)

This will help your child to learn the name and sounds of each letter and keywords.



Collins Big Cat (free)

A great animated book for young readers, where the children have several options: have the story read to them, read the story themselves or adapt the images to create their own story. They can write their own text or record their narrative; with opportunities to add speech bubbles and thought bubbles.



**Endless series e.g. Endless Wordplay**

These apps are animated and use a range of funny voices to explore letters and numbers, which children will love!



**Sight Words & Phonics Reading**

Reading games & fun educational activities to learn phonics & sight words. A great way to learn phonics, sight words, tracing, and complete adventure missions.



## Reading Eggs

To support learning to read, covering phonics, sight words, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension.



## Noisy Crow apps (cost varies)

You can buy books to see and listen to on your hand-held device.

You can also borrow books or buy books from this company. Each book comes with a free audio reading using children's voices, complete with sound effects and original music. Just scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet and hear the story.

Try it here! Scan the code below for the Stories Aloud edition of [Pip and Posy: The Super Scooter](#) by [Axel Scheffler](#):



## Cbeebies (free)

Go Explore - Fun Early Learning Skills App

Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App

Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App

Storytime - Reading Stories App



## Monster Hunt: The Memory Game (free)

Great for developing attention and concentration skills, and improving working memory. You get a few seconds to view where the monsters are hidden and then have to click on their hiding places. The difficulty grows, the better you get!



### **Bugs and Buttons (£0.99)**

This covers a wide range of basic skills: numbers and counting, fine motor skills, colours, sequencing, sorting, basic problem solving, matching and memory games, etc. It makes use of many tablet features – swipe, multi-touch, tilting, pinch and zoom. There are stamps as rewards, and encourages voice-overs; you can also pause or change the levels on games.



### **Bugs and Numbers (£2.99)**

There is plenty of basic fun maths tasks to keep children involved from counting games to more advanced activities.



### **EduGuru Maths (£1.99)**

This covers a variety of maths in a fun way.



### **Singing Fingers (£0.99)**

This lets you finger paint with sound. Just touch the screen while you make a sound, and colourful paint appears. Touch the paint to play back the sound again!



### **Isle of Tune Mobile (£2.99)**

Create your own unique musical journeys from street layouts. Roadside elements are your instruments and cars are the players.



### **Thinkrolls: Kings & Queens (£3.49)**

The scientific thinking required to solve the puzzles has a magical tone, with flying potions, ghosts and mirrors, and magical harps to put crocodiles to sleep. Challenges require thinking and planning ahead, but kids can try without penalty until they figure it out. The levels get progressively harder, and kids must complete all the chapters in one story before moving on to the next. As players complete each level, they collect candies and gems that unlock more costuming options to customize Thinkrolls characters. No reading is required.



### **Puppet Pals HD (Free or £1.99 to include a Directors Pass)**

For free, you have a limited collection of 'puppets' or cartoon characters and some backdrops which you can act out scenes, move around, record audio and generally get creative! The completed scene can then be exported to your camera roll to be used as part of a film in another app, such as imovie or Vintagio, etc. If you have the Director's Pass you can access all the options, including a range of characters and settings and the chance to use your own photographs as backdrops. You can also use images of yourself and crop the outlines to create puppets of yourself!



### **Doodle Buddy (free)**

Has plenty of options including stencils, stamps, backgrounds, images from the ipad's photo albums or the internet. Children can create a variety of brush strokes and easily undo any mistakes. There are options for adding text, comic-style speech bubbles and annotations with completed designs able to be shared, saved and printed in the usual ways.



### **CBeebies (free)**

This area has lots of fun and educational programmes for children.



### **Bee Bot (free)**

Beebots are used as an introduction to programming and control, the children understand that pressing a certain button has an effect on the Beebot's movement. Once having understood this concept, children can enter sequences of instructions and can predict routes and plan them. This app improves skills in directional language and programming through sequences of forwards, backwards, left and right 90 degree turns over 12 levels.

## **Podcasts**

Podcasts are a perfect screen-free activity for kids. They all have in-app purchases.



### **Kids Listen**

Listen to favourite shows, and discover new ones, with the Kids Listen app. It has fun and educational content – science, literature, history, bedtime stories, serialized stories, mindfulness/meditation, music, inspirational interviews, and more



### **Fruit Punch Music**

It's a kid-friendly music-streaming service with music that can appeal to older kids and parents, too. It's Safe as each song passes a multipoint approval process that ensures children will never hear anything inappropriate.



### **Communication and Language**

Our weekly timetable will include free discussions focused around the children and their chosen questions, circle times and of course, rich opportunities for language within our exciting indoor and outdoor environment.

We also use 'Tales Toolkit' to create exciting stories together using props and 'mini me' photographs of ourselves and the children.

The Nursery environment has been designed to promote discussion through exploration, opportunities for imagination, creativity and in particular, open ended questioning. Role play scenarios, story and song time, small world, water and creative play are just a few of the areas which we will work alongside children to support their communication skills and enhance their vocabulary.

### **Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World**

On a daily basis, nursery children will have opportunities to make and create using various media and materials provided. They will have great fun with opportunities to build, join and assemble, using boxes, card, shiny paper, tissue, plastic, wool... the list goes on. This focus is for the children to be as creative as they wish, with a nearby painting zone to add colour and texture to their product if required. They may choose to make their favourite toy, a model of a friend or even their home.

This term we will be drawing self-portraits with a focus on observation using a mirror, puppet and mask making. Music is at the heart of our Early Years with children learning new rhymes, actions and experimenting with hearing and making different sounds.

Activities around the unit will promote exploration, awe and wonder. Our 'Curosimy Approach' will encourage questioning and challenge and enable children to be independent thinkers. We will discuss and discover topics from the world right through to family traditions and customs, plants and animals.

### **Mathematical Development**

This term our focus will be on number. Opportunities for number will be accessible throughout our Early Years unit. We will spend time working alongside the children to spot numbers within their environment in the first term with a focus on the numbers 0-5. Daily counting will take place, using rhymes, actions and puppets to support the children's understanding of number. During learning through play, children will enjoy activities which encourage counting using resources such as natural objects, Numicon, egg boxes, cubes, sparkly objects... basically anything that they want to count and promotes 1:1 correspondence.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development**

During discussion and circle times we will focus on My favourite things, toys and activities that I enjoy, settling in and understanding themselves as a part of our nursery family. The children will also be exploring the following values: Respect and Happiness.



Ongoing opportunities in the garden will enable children to challenge themselves physically and develop new skills such as balancing, climbing, digging, exploring space, riding bikes and using different pieces of play equipment such as balls, hoops, bats. Nursery children will work on their physical skills in class and outside on a daily basis. The children will also enjoy Dough Disco on a weekly basis and Funky Fingers activities are available on a daily basis, which will support their fine motor development.

### **Term 1** **What's your story?**



### **This is me!**

**Spot Starts Nursery/Lulu loves Nursery/Maisy Goes to Nursery.**

**Mrs Bowne, Miss Ponty and the Nursery Team.**



### **Reading and Writing**

We encourage children to borrow books from the classroom, to enhance their love of stories and books as reading is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum. We will be supporting children to use the books in the classroom and model how we use and share books, enjoy pictures, new vocabulary, characters and also the excitement behind new facts or an imaginative storyline. Early writing is another wonderful part of the Early Years and we love to share in the children's ideas and hear them story tell through placing meaning to their marks.

This term we will concentrate on mark making and placing meaning to their marks. Resources are readily available for the children to access throughout the setting.

This term our phonics sessions will concentrate on listening skills and creating sounds, by using and making musical instruments and listening to sounds within our environment.