

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's 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 fingerpaint 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.



BBC iPlayer (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 improve 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

We will continue to introducing our topics using wonderful curiosity box where they explore objects inside the box and ask questions about our new topic. The weekly timetable will include Show and Tell for Nursery, discussion time during snack focused around a chosen question, circle times and of course, rich opportunities for language within our exciting indoor and outdoor environment.

The Early Years environment has been designed to promote discussion through exploration, opportunities for imagination, creativity and in particular, questioning. Role play scenarios, small world, water, sand and design stations are just a few of the areas which we will work alongside children to support their communication skills and enhance their vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development

Our JIGSAW topic in class will be 'Celebrating Difference'. It will focus on everyone is different, include others in work and play, know how to help someone if they're being bullied, know how to solve problems and use kind words. The children will also be exploring the following values: Peace and Patience.



Ongoing opportunities in the garden will enable children to challenge themselves physically and develop new skills such as balancing, climbing, exploring space, riding bikes and using different pieces of play equipment such as balls, hoops, bats. Nursery and Reception children will visit the hall on a weekly basis for PE sessions, therefore PE kits for Reception will need to be in school on a daily basis. The children will also enjoy Dough Disco and Funky Fingers on a weekly basis this term which will support fine motor development.

Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World

The children will have great fun in the design station on a daily basis with opportunities to join, assemble, cut, stick using lots of different media such as wood, card, shiny paper, tissue, plastic, wool... the list goes on. The idea of this area 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.

This term we will be creating dot art, creating Elmer collage using patchwork using pastels, colours and shapes, observational drawing and creating Christmas themed artwork using warm colours. Music is at the heart of our Early Years with children learning Autumn and Christmas songs, actions and experimenting with hearing and making different sounds. Activities around the unit will promote exploration, awe and wonder using our 'Curiosity Approach' which encourages questioning and challenge and enable children to be independent thinkers. We have weekly discussion time to talk through issues in the world right through to family traditions and customs, plants and animals. In Computing sessions we are beginning to program Beebots using simple algorithms and Purple Mash to create shapes on a screen using a mouse to control a program. We are covering online safety topics relating to cyberbullying, by recognising that they can say 'no' / 'please stop' / 'I'll tell' to somebody who asks me to do something that makes me feel embarrassed or upset online or in real life.

Term 2

Hidden behind the picture is...?



OURSELVES, FAMILIES & FRIENDS

Mrs Holloway, Mrs Palser and the Early Years Team

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 focusing on the numbers 0-5 in Nursery and 0-10 and beyond in Reception. Children will be immersed into understanding the value of each number and how we can make numbers in different ways. Daily counting for both Nursery and Reception will take place, using songs, games and rhymes and there will be a focus on the recognition of dice patterns.

Children will enjoy activities which encourage ordering and 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.



Reading and Writing



Daily phonic sessions take place in Nursery and Reception. The Nursery children will take part in games and songs which promote hearing sounds in the environment. You will be kept informed of which sounds your child has learnt so they can continue to practise them at home. In Reception children are sent home with a reading book to share each night. Both Nursery and Reception are encouraged to take books home from our reading den to share at home; please remember to sign them out!

Reading is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum. We are encouraging children to visit and use the 'Friendship Book Den' where we model how we use and share books, enjoy pictures, new vocabulary and characters and also the excitement behind new facts or an imaginative storyline. In Early writing we love to share in the children's ideas and hear them story tell through placing meaning to their marks. This term we will continue to concentrate on daily name writing in Reception and encourage them to mark make with their newly learnt sounds.