Speech and Language Therapy Apps to get you started

*There are so many apps out there but here is a taster of what is available!*

**Attention and Listening**

Talking Tom Price: Free

*Talking Tom is a cartoon cat that you can play practical jokes on and who repeats what you say in a funny voice. (There are many apps similar to this, use what your child is interested in e.g. you can find a talking dinosaur, Santa and princess)*

BlaBlaBla Price: Free

*A range of black and white images move in response to sound; these movements change in response to length and pitch of the sounds you make.*

What’s that Sound? Price £1.49

*This interactive game develops auditory discrimination and processing skills. Your child listens to an everyday sound and identifies the sound from a choice of 3 pictures.*

**Understanding**

Splingo’s Language Universe Price: £1.99

*The alien’s spoken instructions contain 1, 2, 3 or 4 information carrying words. These teach different aspects of language, including naming words (nouns), action words (verbs), location words (prepositions) and description words (adjectives), e.g. color, size. You need to get the instruction correct in order to build a spaceship. (Instructions can be customized depending on your child’s level).*

NLConcepts Autism Price: Free

*Each page presents you with a picture card and 4 category choices. Your child needs to choose the appropriate category to match the picture. For example the picture card shows an apple and your child needs to point to the vegetables, sport, fruit or kitchen items.*

Farm pairs Price: Free

*This simple game can be used to teach the concepts same and different as well as helping visual memory skills. As you find two matching animals you can hear the sound they make. You can change the difficulty level depending on your child’s ability.*

**Expressive Language**

Super Duper Fun Decks Price: £1.49 (each)

*This app is an online version of the cards many speech and language therapists use in clinics. This included activities on Understanding inferences, irregular verbs, WH questions, what are they thinking? Name that Category, assuming role. Your child looks at an illustration, and either reads the prompt or touches the screen to listen to the prompt and answer choices. The child then responds by touching his/her answer.*

*Take a look as some of these apps are free such as ‘let’s name things’ and ‘using I and me’.*

ABA flashcards – Actions Price: Free

*An app to improve your child’s verb vocabulary: It includes a range of verb pictures which your child can touch to hear what action the child is doing. (ABA have produced a range of apps – many including flashcards of different categories such as emotions or vehicles – take a look)*

Language Builder Price £3.99

*This app can be used to improve a child’s sentence formation and grammar. It may also increase their sentence length and improve their articulation. Your child records their own picture description and the app can provide hints to help them along. You child is also able to listen to their sentences, which helps with their self-monitoring. . (This company also produce apps such as ‘question builder’ ‘rainbow sentences’ and ‘story builder’.)*

**Speech Sounds**

All about sounds Price: £0.69

*Choose the sound you want to practise and this app creates a pair game containing pictures starting with that sound. For example the ‘f’ game includes pictures of a farm, fairy, feet, fence, feather, fun fair, farmer and a fan for you to match. The app can also be set up to name the pictures as a model.*

Speech Trainer 3D (By Smarty ears) Price: £5.49

*This app provides a 3D demonstration of how to produce all consonants and vowels in the English Language. Your child can learn where to place his lips tongue and teeth by watching an animated side view of our mouth and a front view of an animated person.*

Pictello Price: £15

*Create slide shows of photos and audio. This could be used to talk about a child’s holiday or weekend. You may also find it useful to create a slideshow for different speech sounds and the best part is your child can help you create it. For example if your child is working on the ‘c/k’ sound go out and about on a treasure hunt taking pictures of the ‘c/k’ things you see e.g. cats, cars, kites and cups. Remember to discuss with your child if the item belongs in your special ‘c/k’ slideshow and if so take a photo and make up your own slideshow. Look at the slideshow each day to practise this sound in words.*

**Social Communication**

Social skills builder Price: Free

*This app uses real life scenarios to solve problems, teach friendship skills and emotions. You can change the level of scenarios depending on your child’s ability. This app shows a combination of video clips or photos for children to discuss aimed at teaching an appropriate behaviour e.g. greetings or losing.*

Touch and learn Emotions Price: Free

*A quiz on interpreting facial expressions: this app presents 4 pictures of different emotions. This child then has to choose the correct emotion to match what they hear.*

Off We Go Price: £2.49

*These are great apps to help prepare your child for activities and outings and were created by a Mum for her own son who has special needs. Current apps include ‘going on a plane’ or ‘visiting the dentist’. The purpose of this application is to help introduce a child to what will happen when they go on their trip. It will help the child to learn about what they are likely to see and hear. This application is based around the Off We Go! books. The format is a sequence of 12 steps with clear uncluttered pictures, using simple everyday language that describes what typically happens.*

Don’t forget to also download fun games such as Plants v zombies £4.99 or

Angry birds £1.99. These games can act as a great reward after completing work-related activities.

**For more ideas take a look at the website ‘Speech/Language? There’s an app for that!** **at http://jenny-slp.blogspot.co.uk/**