19 Apps under $5 for Kids with Autism

Great apps. For a great price.

There's no shortage of innovative apps that support children with autism. But many are expensive—and when you're a parent or professional with limited resources, pricey apps are often out of the question.

Fortunately, **you don't have to break the bank** to find apps that improve the lives of kids with autism. Here are 19 apps—some designed specifically for kids on the spectrum, some easily adaptable—that help with:

- ✓ **Communication & Language**
- ✓ **Organization & Motivation**
- ✓ **Routines & Instructions**

LET'S GET STARTED!

Communication & Language

Alexicom AAC

Do you use Alexicom to develop augmentative communication pages? This app lets you publish your AAC pages to your phone or tablet so you can access them anywhere (it's great for sharing pages between SLPs and parents). Plus Alexicom AAC gives you more than 2,500 premade communication pages and access to more than 25,000 real photos and images. It's easy to import these pages into your own online library, customize them, or create your own pages.

FREE

Answers: Yes/No HD

Answers:YesNo is an easy to use, affordable communication tool perfect for nonverbal children with autism and motor planning issues. It features two large buttons: one for yes, one for no. You can place custom text and pictures on the buttons, record custom audio to play when buttons are selected, and save up to 30 custom button pairs. Comes with multi-language support and visual cues for those with hearing impairments.

$3.99

Prices listed reflect those posted in the Apple App Store. Android prices may vary. Prices are subject to change.

SoundingBoard

With SoundingBoard, you can transform your iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad into the latest in communication technology. Create customized communication boards in just minutes, using AbleNet symbols or your own photos. (Comes pre-loaded with more than a dozen communication boards ready for immediate use!)

FREE

Speech with Milo

Selected as the #2 Best Education App for Kids by Babble.com, the "Speech with Milo" apps were created by a licensed SLP and have been downloaded more than 50,000 times. Sold separately for $2.99 each, these apps use fun and engaging animated exercises to teach children about sequencing, verbs, prepositions, nouns, adjectives, and more.

$2.99

Splingo's Language Universe

$2.99

Designed by SLPs, this high-quality interactive game uses a friendly, funny alien named Splingo to help children learn critical listening and language skills. Splingo's instructions cover a full spectrum from very early language development (e.g., single word recognition) to complex concepts that combine several aspects of language at once. Easy to customize based on each child's developmental level.

Like this list? Have suggestions of your own?

If you have a favorite app under $5 that helps build communication & language skills, tweet it to us at **@BrookesPubCo**. We'd love to keep updating and expanding this list!

ORGANIZATION & MOTIVATION APPS

Organization & Motivation

iEarned That

A super-simple motivational tool designed by a pediatrician and parent, iEarned That helps children develop positive behaviors by working toward tangible goals. Turn any picture of a reward into an interactive puzzle of up to 60 pieces. Kids can earn one piece at a time—a great way to foster independence, responsibility, and goal-oriented behavior through positive reinforcement.

$1.99

iReward

Another easy-to-use motivational tool, selected by Apple for their "Apps for Special Education" list! Create a star chart or token board that reinforces positive behaviors through visual rewards. It offers lots of options for customization: you can create your own color backgrounds and tokens, add a photo of the goal/reward, use two pictures to create a first/then reward, record custom audio to play when a goal is reached, and more.

$2.99

Steps

The easy way to help a child organize her day. With this app, you can go through the day and check off tasks on the "Open" list. Steps lets you create a new list or task with ease, bring back tasks you accidentally closed, set up reminders and add notes, and more. It works both offline and online, and if you want to use it on multiple devices, it syncs and backs everything up to iCloud.

$.99

Time Timer

This clear and simple timer app displays time as a red disk that quietly gets smaller as time goes by. When the red is gone, time's up! The visuals are clean and uncluttered, making it easy for kids to see exactly how much time is left. Plus the app lets you create up to 4 timers at once, edit one timer while the others keep going, and tailor it to whatever amount of time you need—whether it's ten seconds or ten hours.
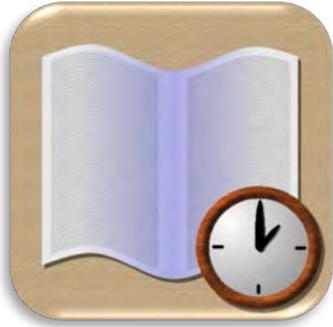
$2.99

Time Tracker

A simple, motivating tool for creating projects and tasks and then helping a child keep track of time spent on each. You can plan out your time a week in advance, stop and start a timer on a project, and review planned time against actual time spent working on projects and tasks. It's easy to print the timesheets or email them as PDFs.

$1.99

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ROUTINES & INSTRUCTIONS APPS

Routines & Instructions
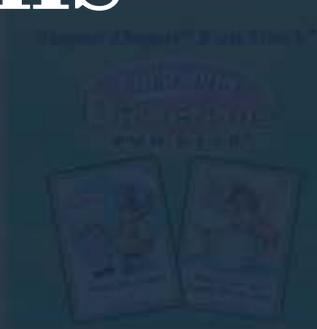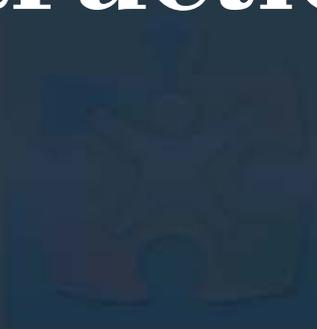
EasyConcepts

Help kids of all ages sharpen their knowledge of basic concepts and improve their skills in following verbal instructions. Three interactive themed games—Animal Sizes, Underwater Sequencing, and Before & After Farm—support development of concept knowledge, attention and listening, and auditory recall and processing abilities.

$4.99

First-Then Board

Eliminate the need for those cumbersome paper-based visual instructions and bags of pictures! This app is a convenient, portable way to communicate clear expectations to a child with autism. Use the built-in pictures or download any online photo of the activity or routine you want the child to complete and the object, activity, or reward that will come next.

$1.99

Fun Deck Following Directions

Help children practice following directions while they sharpen their memory, motor, and auditory processing skills. Select from 52 illustrated picture cards with one-step directions ("Growl like a bear"), and record the child's response by tapping green or red (correct or incorrect). You can even have children follow multi-step directions by presenting more than one card—just swipe the screen to the side to display the next card.

$3.99

Let's Talk: Following Instructions

Developed by a team of experts led by an experienced speech-language therapist, this app is a highly motivating, interactive game starring a friendly monster named Moe. Through flashcards with simple instructions, kids practice waiting, listening, and responding to directions. Also an effective tool for boosting language skills and vocabulary.

$1.99

My PlayHome

This massively interactive dollhouse app lets kids explore and use everything in the house. The characters eat, sleep, shower, brush their teeth and more, and kids can interact with the furnishings and change the background music. It's an ideal app for helping kids with autism practice following a sequence of instructions.

$3.99

PhotoMind

PhotoMind lets you take a picture and then make a note and set a reminder for it. The reminder will appear along with any note you've saved with it, without any need for an Internet connection. A helpful visual organization tool for routines and activities.

$2.99

Picture Prompt Timer

An innovative visual support app for children with autism, Picture Prompt Timer lets you display two photos in a first/then format. The corresponding bar shows the child how much time is left, and the auditory prompt allows you to customize a message that will play at intervals YOU determine, to help the child stay on task.

$3.99

Routinely

Help children achieve goals and develop good habits by providing daily reminders of routines, activities, and tasks. You can define a weekly schedule, and Routinely will help track each activity. Through daily reminders and repetition, children will transform activities into good habits that improve their lives.

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FREE

Visual Routine

This easy-to-program visual schedule is ideal for helping children with autism stick to a routine. Routines can be easily tailored to individual needs with audio feedback and customizable pictures, audio, and text. No need to tote pictures or a laminated schedule—this app will let you pre-set routines that clearly remind children what they have to do.

$4.99

Like this list? Have suggestions of your own?

If you have a favorite app under $5 that helps kids follow routines & instructions, tweet it to us at **@BrookesPubCo**. We'd love to keep updating and expanding this list!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS APP LIST

This list was adapted from the book
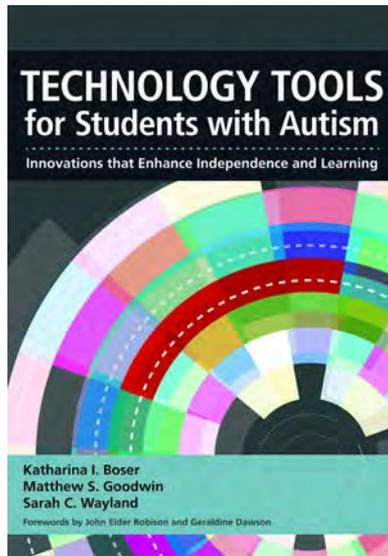
Technology Tools for Students with Autism
Innovations that Enhance Independence and Learning

Volume Editors: Katharina I. Boser, Ph.D.,
Matthew S. Goodwin, Ph.D., & Sarah C. Wayland, Ph.D.

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