Parents' Guide to Digital Tools to Support Children's Learning

Use this guide to learn about digital tools designed to help you support your children's learning about language and literacy. The charts on the following pages give you basic information about each tool, including where to find it, its cost, and hints and ideas for using it. These tools are intended for adults to use before talking to children. The tools are not intended for children to use.

A key at the end of this guide defines and explains the terms and symbols used throughout.

The information in this guide should not be considered an endorsement of any particular tool or the use of such tools in general.

Digital Tool	Basic Information	Cost Factors		Content Delivery			
Tool name, description, location/source	Ages of children (years old)	Cost after free sign-up or download	Daily data usage	Duration of information cycle	Materials needed for activities	Delivery of information	Presentation mode
Aimee's Babies Word Gap App A mobile app to provide tips to raise awareness of the importance of early language and literacy thewordgapapp.com	P to 5	Free	⊘	• Parent choice • 200 activities, plus songs and nursery rhymes	• None usually needed • Some household items	Pulled by parent	• Model • Text descriptions • Video examples
Babies on the Homefront A mobile app with activities to support connections and conversations between children and their parents currently or formerly in the military babiesonthehomefront.org	0 to 5	Free	⊘	• Parent choice • More than 75 activities • Links to more than 15 videos	• Craft materials • Household items	Pulled by parent	• Model • Text descriptions
Baby Sparks A mobile app to give parents daily activities that adjust to a child's language and other developmental levels babysparks.com	0 to 2	• For free: Basic content • For cost: Family or Agency pays to get all content	✓	• Two-year cycle • For free: Limited number • For cost: More than 700 activities	• Household items • Toys	• Pulled by parent • For free: 2 per day • For cost: All content	• Model • Text instructions • Video instructions

Key to symbols used under "Daily data usage": ✓=Need Internet; ☾=May Cost for Text Message; ⊘=No Internet Needed

Parents' Guide to Digital Tools to Support Children's Learning, cont.

Digital Tool	Basic Information	Cost Factors		Content Delivery			
Tool name, description, location/source	Ages of children (years old)	Cost after free sign-up or download	Daily data usage	Duration of information cycle	Materials needed for activities	Delivery of information	Presentation mode
Beginning with Babble A mobile app to deliver short tips for language-rich interactions for families and their children leapempowers.org/beginning-with-babble	0 to 5	Free	⊘	• Five-year cycle • More than 700 tips	• None usually needed • Some household items	• Sent by tool • Up to 10 per day	• Prompt • Text and Audio tips • Video examples
Bright by Three A text service to deliver tips and information to help with children's language and development brightbythree.org/bright-by-text/	0 to 3	Free	☽ ✓ (for links)	• Three-year cycle • More than 250 tips	• None usually needed • Some household items	• Sent by tool • 1 to 5 per week	• Prompt • Text tips • Links to text and video instructions
Daily Vroom A mobile app with suggestions for everyday activities to help language and brain development joinvroom.org/	0 to 5	Free	✓	• Three-year cycle • More than 1,000 activities	Household items, if any needed	• Initiated by parent • 1 per day	• Prompt • Text descriptions
Flit, A Family Literacy App A mobile app with activities to use at home to support early language and literacy famlit.ca	0 to 6	Free	⊘	• Parent choice • More than 100 activities	• Craft materials • Household items	Initiated by parent	• Model • Text instructions • Pictures
Kinedu A mobile app that demonstrates ways to learn through play; for language and other areas of development kinedu.com	P to 2	• For free: Basic content • For cost: Family or Agency pays to get all content	✓	• Two-year cycle • For free: Limited number • For cost: More than 1000 activities	• Household items • Toys	• Initiated by parent • For free: 1 per day • For cost: All content	• Model • Text • Video instructions
Let's Play! A mobile app with activities that fit into daily routines and outings zerotothree.org/resources/380-let-s-play-free-parenting-app	0 to 5	Free	⊘	• Parent choice • 130 activities	Household items	Initiated by parent	• Model • Text instructions • Pictures

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Digital Tool	Basic Information	Cost Factors		Content Delivery			
Tool name, description, location/source	Ages of children (years old)	Cost after free sign-up or download	Daily data usage	Duration of information cycle	Materials needed for activities	Delivery of information	Presentation mode
Ready Rosie A mobile app with videos to model activities for literacy and math, while playing and talking with child readyrosie.com	0 to 8	• For free: Limited content • For cost: School or agency pays to get all content	✓	• For free: Limited number • For cost: Cycles for broad age groups	Household items	• Initiated by parent • For free: Limited number • For cost: 1 to 5 per week	• Model • Text tips • Video examples
READY4K! A weekly text service with three tips on one topic to promote language, literacy, and other subjects ready4k.parentpowered.com	0 to 6	Free	☽	• Six-year cycle • New content for each year of child's life	Household items, if any needed	• Sent by tool • 3 per week	• Prompt • Text tips
Talk. Read. Sing. A mobile app that prompts interactions with children using activities that focus on language and brain development scholastic.com/first5CA	0 to 5	Free	✓	• One-year cycle • 365 activities	• None usually needed • Some household items	• Sent by tool • 1 per day	• Prompt • Text tips
Text4Baby A text service with tips to promote daily conversations as opportunities for language and brain development, along with health information text4baby.org	P to 1	Free	☽	• One-year cycle • New themes each year	Household items	• Sent by tool • 2 per week	• Prompt • Text tips • Picture or video examples
Univision: "Pequeños y Valiosos" A multimedia text service with tips for making activities part of the daily routine to improve language, literacy, and other early learning areas exito.univision.com	0 to 5	• For free: Basic content • For cost: Family pays to get all content	✓	Three-year cycle	• Household items • Toys	• Initiated by parent • For free: Up to 8 activities per month • For cost: Up to 10 "play plans" per month	• Model • Text • Video instructions
WeeSchool A mobile app with activities paired to monthly progress in developmental areas including language weeschool.com	0 to 3	Free	☽	• One-year cycle • New themes each year	Household items	• Sent by tool • 2 per week	• Prompt • Text tips • Picture or video examples

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Key to the Terms and Symbols Used Throughout This Guide

Basic Information	Cost Factors	Content Delivery
Ages of Children Describes for which age the information offered by the tool is most appropriate, prenatal (P) through age 8.	**Cost After Free Sign-up or Download** Describes the cost of using the tool after free sign-up or download. Some tools have optional fees to access all content. **Daily Data Usage** Describes data requirements to use the tool using the following symbols: ✓= Need Internet ☽= May cost for text message ⊘= No Internet needed	**Duration of Information Cycle** Describes the length of time during which the information will be delivered to the user. The word "cycle" describes how long new information is delivered; for example, a "three-year" cycle has new tips across three years. **Materials Needed for Activities** Describes the four types of materials needed for activities: **None**. No materials are needed **Craft Materials**. Glue, paper, tape, etc. **Household Items**. For example, food, clothing, books, or other objects typically used by family members **Toys**. Materials such as purchased dolls or puzzles, sometimes with a specific model **Delivery of Information** Describes the two main ways that tools deliver information: **Pulled by parent**. Parents (or other users) choose information by opening an app and/or clicking on an activity. **Pushed by Tool.** The tool sends information, such as via text or an app notification. **Presentation Mode** Describes the ways each tool presents information: **Model**. Examples of activities **Prompt**. Tips or reminders to try an activity **Format**. Audio, pictures, text, or video **Style**. Descriptions, examples, instruction, or tips

For more information about this resource,
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ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Early Childhood
National Centers

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Parent, Family and Community Engagement