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SERC Library:
Topical Literature Search

Enhancing Learning for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders through iPad Technology
October 2017

This resource guide includes current research articles and other information pulled from literature and the Library's educational database service for schools, programs, service providers and families to increase their awareness of ways in which iPads and electronic Applications (Apps) are being used to effectively promote skills development and independence in children with autism spectrum disorders. It should be noted that it does not represent the full scope of resources and information available on this topic nor serve as an endorsement of any particular resource.

Introductory Article:

iPads and the use of "apps" by children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: do they promote learning?

Melissa L., A., Calum, H., & Kate, C. (2016).
iPads and the use of 'apps' by children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: do they promote learning?.
Frontiers In Psychology, Vol 7 (2016), doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01305/full

Research findings indicate that educational apps used on iPads and tablets have the potential to maximize learning for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Some advantages of iPad-based interventions over more traditional methods in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) are highlighted below. However, for any therapeutic intervention to be effective, it must be individualized to meet the needs of a particular child.

1) Children with ASD often seem to prefer interventions delivered with an iPad, resulting in greater engagement and reduced challenging behavior.
2) Digital technology can be easily adapted for customization and personalization of learning than traditional intervention materials.
3) Virtual environments can reduce anxiety associated with face-to-face interactions by allowing for extra processing time.
4) App-based learning can provide a seamless transition and extension of learning from school to home.

To learn more: https://doaj.org/article/42f933c3c486430fbcc3b70eb908c769

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Enhancing Learning for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders through iPad Technology October 2017

List of Sources:

Boyd, T. K., Hart Barnett, J. E., & More, C. M. (2015). Evaluating iPad Technology for Enhancing Communication Skills of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Intervention In School And Clinic*, *51*(1), 19-27.

Dixon, R. M., Verenikina, I., Costley, D., & Pryor, S. (2015). The Use of iPADs in the Home Setting for Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal Of Special Education Technology*, *30*(4), 193-206. doi:10.1177/0162643415623023

Fan, T. (2012). Enhancing Learning with the Use of Assistive Technology for Children on the Autism Spectrum.

iPads Help Late-Speaking Children With Autism. (2014). *Science & Children*, *51*(5), 18.

Melissa L., A., Calum, H., & Kate, C. (2016). iPads and the use of 'apps' by children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: do they promote learning?. *Frontiers In Psychology, Vol 7 (2016)*, doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01305/full

Murdock, L., Ganz, J., & Crittendon, J. (2013). Use of an iPad Play Story to Increase Play Dialogue of Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal Of Autism & Developmental Disorders*, *43*(9), 2174-2189.

O'Malley, P., Lewis, M. B., Donehower, C., & Stone, D. (2014). Effectiveness of Using iPads to Increase Academic Task Completion by Students with Autism. *Universal Journal Of Educational Research*, *2*(1), 90-97.

Xin, J., & Leonard, D. (2015). Using iPads to Teach Communication Skills of Students with Autism. *45*(12), 4154-4164.

Links to Information

Effectiveness of Using iPads to Increase Academic Task Completion by Students with Autism
http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eric&AN=EJ1053911&site=eds-live&scope=site

Enhancing Learning with the Use of Assistive Technology for Children on the Autism Spectrum
http://www.eric.ed.gov/contentdelivery/servlet/ERICServlet?accno=ED531866

Evaluating iPad Technology for Enhancing Communication Skills of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders
http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1053451215577476

iPads help late-speaking children with autism develop language
(http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2013/11/ipadsautism-language/)

The Use of iPADs in the Home Setting for Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders
http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=112758603&site=eds-live&scope=site

Use of an iPad Play Story to Increase Play Dialogue for Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorders
http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pbh&AN=89729343&site=eds-live&scope=site

Using iPads to Teach Communication Skills of Students with Autism
http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pbh&AN=111070585&site=eds-live&scope=site

Please note that the SERC Library makes available for loan a collection of assistive technology tools and devices that include a small number of iPads and Chromebooks through which a borrower can try out and gauge the usefulness of a particular resource.