Edition Four

'Special Apps for Very Special Learners'

November/December 2020

Flo Longhorn

Edition 5 will be out in the new year. If interested, send me an email *flopmld@gmail.com*

November/December 2020

Message from Flo Longhorn:

Dear readers,

Here is the November/December 2020 issue of tablet apps for very special children/adults. Apologies for a premature leap into the Christmas season, but I have placed a selection of Christmas apps at the end of this listing. I am also placing a Christmas sensory/music story on pages 4-5 to make sure everyone has a sensory as well as an 'appy' festive season! The next apps issue will be in February 2021!

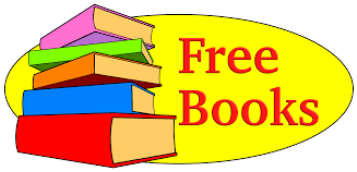
Best sensory, jingly, healthy wishes,

Flo

p.s. Thank you to Roger, long suffering husband, for his editorial skill.

This symbol flags up use of 'baby' or 'toddler' in the app description - the app can be person-appropriate not age-appropriate. Ignore the word, it's okay!

The apps lists for May, June and September are still available.
For a copy, send an e-mail to: flopmld@gmail.com



I have put all my multisensory education books on a website to download for free. Visit the link below to access them:

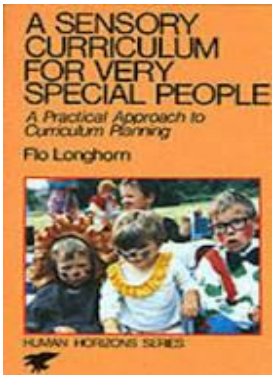
https://sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home

Here is a list of what is available. The Sensology book is very important, 'waking up the senses' so learning can be engaged!

Flo's books:

- iPads, Apps and Special Learners (2012) - Way out of date but may be of interest.
- Sensory Art for Very Special People (2010)
- The Sensology Workout: Waking Up the Senses (2007)
- Literacy for Very Special People (2001)
- Numeracy for Very Special People (2000)
- Sensory Drama for Very Special People (2000)
- Sex Education and Sexuality for Very Special People – A Sensory Approach (1997)
- Sensory Cookery for Very Special People – A Practical Approach (1997)
- Enhancing Education Through the Use of Ultraviolet Light & Fluorescing Materials (1997)
- Planning a Multisensory Massage Programme for Very Special People (1993)
- Prerequisites to Learning for Very Special People (1993)
- Religious Education for Very Special Children (1993)
- Sensory Science - National Curriculum for Very Special People (1993)

- Sensory Curriculum for Very Special People - I do not have publishing rights for this, but you can order on amazon.co.uk or many bookshop sites or stores.



A Christmas Touch with Music Story

(First published in Information Exchange, Issue 79)

I found this excellent Christmas activity on my computer in the form of a PowerPoint, with no reference to anyone. So, I apologise for no acknowledgements and would like the person who sent me this, to let me know so I can sing their praises.

Enjoy!

Let it Snow!

Arms and feet free to feel cotton balls sifted through hands and poured over feet.

Frosty the Snowman.

Pat frosty white bath puffs over arms/ legs.

Rocking around the Christmas tree!

Massage Christmas scented cream/oil with firm and lively moves and 'pinching'.

Jingle Bells!

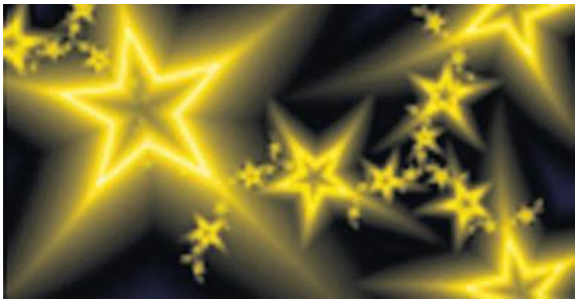
Bounce jingle bells over arms, legs, tummy.

Silent Night/Mary's Boy Child.

A gentle massage and then wrap in material and rock side to side.

While Shepherds watched.

Stroke white fluffy material over skin.



It was on a starry night!

Flick starry tinsels.

The Little Drummer Boy.

Large drum to tap, and drumsticks to tap on body (or pat with hands).

Auld Lang Syne!

Smell of mincemeat while holding hands and shaking up and down.

'Simple Sensory Apps and How to Use Them' - all Free!

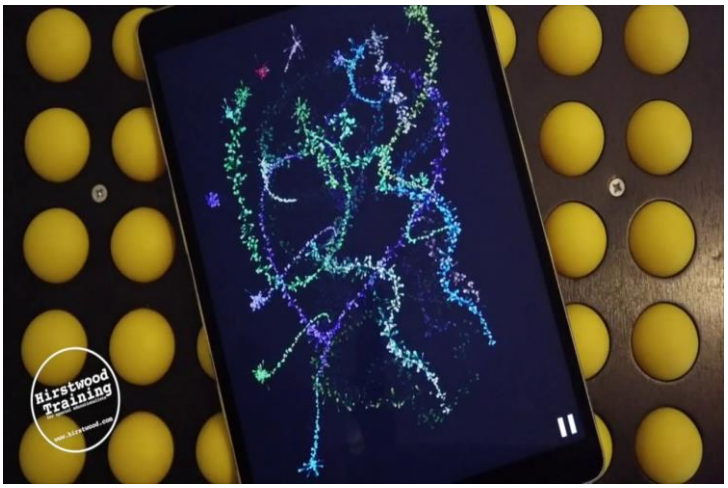
Click on the link below to access a YouTube clip (about 4 minutes long) showing several useful apps in action.

This is an entertaining new video with the presenter using her voice to explain how these sensory apps work. She uses actions to let the viewer see what happens in a couple of the apps. They are from Sensatronic lab apps and are all free. Really worth looking at and enjoy her amazing tattoos too!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BYOcIS3oQg

Spark Art! (Free with in-app purchases) - tap, drag, pointy finger.

YouTube clip (click on link below), from the one and only Richard Hirstwood, demonstrating a sparkly mark-making app. It is very easy to make marks which then produce firework sounds, so you are creating a space age picture story! Even if you do not touch the screen, the sparkles continue to move and dance away.



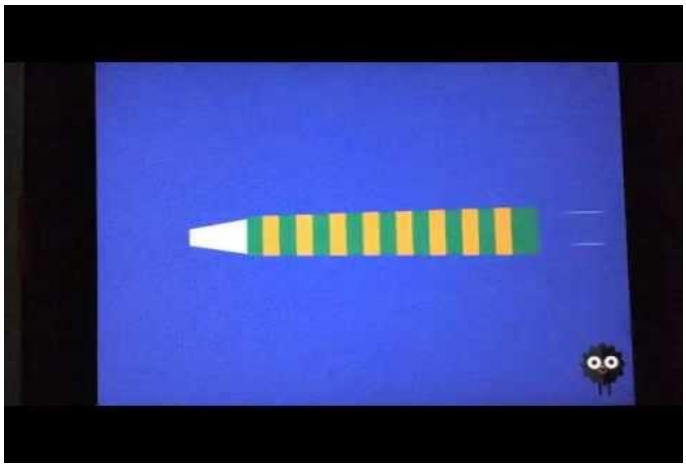
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgUHYflhqbE

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bigduckgames.sparkart&hl=en_GB

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/spark-art/id505382712

Huff and Puff (£2.99) - for huffing and puffing, blowing exercises or cause and effect. (It needs the microphone working to enable actions).

An unusual app, really cool for a speech and language therapist or those in contact with learners who have teen-weeny voices or limited mouth movements. The faster you puff the more speed for the object. Carla Butorac demonstrates in the video below, how blowing on the tablet makes objects work such as a whistle or trumpet. A handy hint - have a real whistle or balloon to encourage real blowing during the session.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQGiJd9m15U

https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/duckie-deck-huff-n-puff/id821551481
(No Android version)

Baby Glow Baby Development (**Free**) – faces. Ignore the word baby.

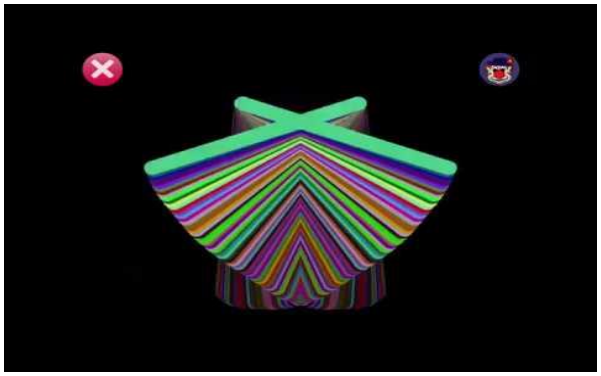
This is so simple. The problem is finding it in the App Store. It hides amongst fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding apps! Simply, it is the face seen on the right, turning a different colour with a female voice naming the colour. There is a moving, spotty background. Great for repetition and familiarisation of facial details, may just be a winner…. Turn off sound for just face viewing.

https://apps.apple.com/app/id1503558208?ign-mpt=uo%3D4
(No Android version)

Sensory Coloco (**Free**) - art at its best from sensoryapphouse.com.

This is the very special app I would choose to take to a desert island! The fan effect is especially startlingly 3D and takes you into an inner world or vortex.

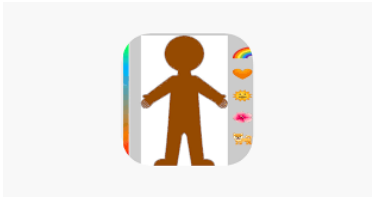
See the YouTube video below, showing all the effects on this free app (click on the image or the link).



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_o5oz_gcqU

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sensory-coloco-symmetry-painting-and-visual-effects/id872469895

(An Android version is still in the process of being created by the producers).



Trigger Stop: Sensory and Emotional Check-in (**Free**) – wellbeing, expressing emotions - for those able to understand symbols and colours.

While this app is not for very special learners, it may be useful to pass on to others who come in contact with those who have unusual behaviours. It links to self-control and using an app to express the difference world of emotions - interoception leaps to the mind.

It links physical states to emotional states by using images and colours for emotive words. I found it simple to use and liked the idea of how a child 's portrait can be superimposed on the body of the image, making it their own.

Quote: "Welcome to 'Trigger Stop: Sensory and Emotional Check-In' Application designed for children developmentally ages 3-8 years. This smart phone/tablet app is intended for use for children who might not be able to access their words when their emotions are intense, and they become dysregulated in the moment." (Julie Kurtz, USA)

Downloadable PDF below, of the images used in the apps to construct a personal picture/record for the learner.

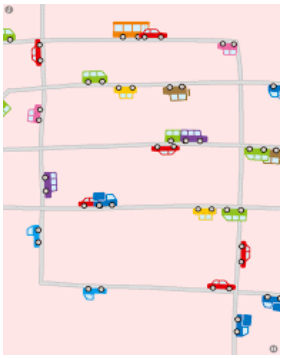
https://78b60343-443d-4a19-a72c-7ee8ebc35136.filesusr.com/ugd/a40709_3bb298c911b149aa9bd42d9ab3501fb6.pdf

The website has some free resources that are well worth a read, I like the toolbox of 'Health and Wellbeing'. Those folk reading this list and working/living with adults or those with dementia may find it useful too.

https://www.optimalbrainintegration.com/freeresources

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.juliekurtz.android.bodydraw&hl=en_US

Broom-Broom (for the iPad) (**Free** - in app purchases) – sound, cause/effect, tracking, play.



Lots of fun with great 'brum-brum', hooters and traffic noises, a crowd-puller for those who are at the schema stage of transportation or obsessed with cars! Just draw lines or squiggles which quickly change into roads with buses, cars trucks driving along your roads. Students can enjoy making traffic jams!

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/broom-broom-for-ipad/id482548233
(Not on Android)

Great Ant Adventure (**Free**) - small target game, tracking, creating.

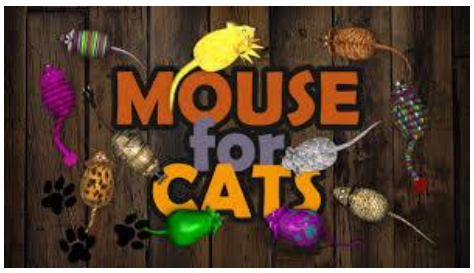
If you don't like creepy crawlies, then go no further. Tiny ants appear when you tap the screen. They scurry around looking for food or scurry to hide under a rock. This app also simulates the movements of many different bugs.

The movements of the ants are particularly lifelike and watching them is fascinating. Give them food or put down stones to block their path! Sometimes even crushing them... If there are a lot of ants about, you can even drag them to form a line!

Unicorn beetles, ladybirds, and butterflies may come to join the fun, during the ant squashing adventure. The music can be turned off if required.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.monois.android.eduapp11&hl=en_GB&gl=US

https://apps.apple.com/jo/app/great-ant-adventure/id767236257



Mouse for Cats (**Free**) - target pointy finger, simple game, fun.

This is a very simple game. Just spot the mouse, tap with a pointy finger - then the mouse squeaks and runs away.

You score when you catch a mouse and then move on to a harder stage of two/three mice to catch.

You could buy mice toys like the one in the app so you can play with it too (Poundland!). This could be the beginning of playing a board game perhaps with two-way interaction on screen.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cz.petrv.mouse_for_cats&hl=gb

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/mouse-for-cats/id766080574

Watch the YouTube clip, for lots of cat fun!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KzvKrZez9I

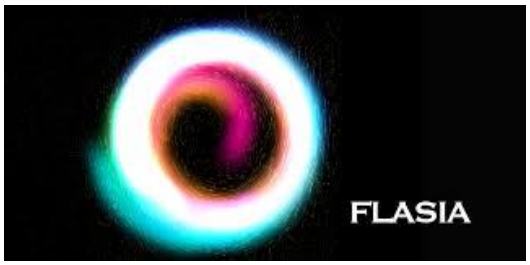
Another cat game below from Purina Go-cat! This time - catch fish!

Cat Fishing (**Free**) - water effects, tracking, tapping, simple game.

Lovely simple effects with water bubbling away, gurgling, bubbles, brightly coloured fish swimming, just catch the fish and score. Love it when you catch a fish and the tail twiddles.

https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/go-cat-cat-fishing/id775231251

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.friskies.Catfishing2



Flasia (**Free** - you can upgrade) - artistic art with music.

This is one of my favourite art apps. It combines kinetic art with an interactive visualiser. Very intense moving colours, like a moving Jackson Pollock painting.

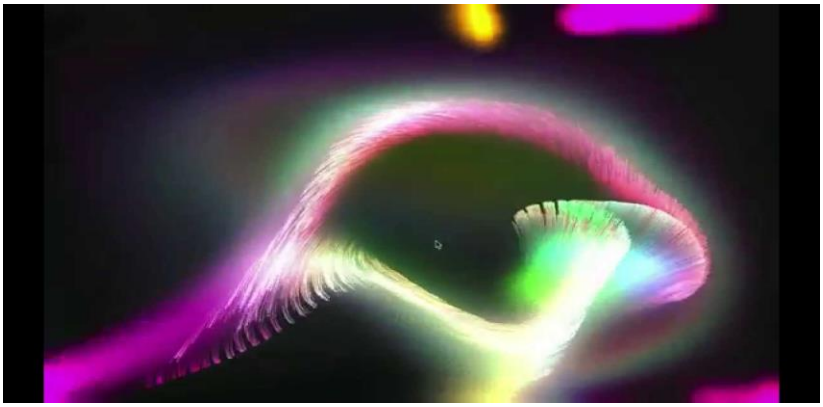
It comes with:

- Five finger multi-touch display.
- Five music choices by Aden Ray (On/Off available).
- Customised particle length, number and size.
- 2 play modes (gesture control and multi-touch drawing).
- Awesome fluid effect with high UVL colours.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sunglab.fluidartfree&hl=en_GB

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/flasia/id1076407250

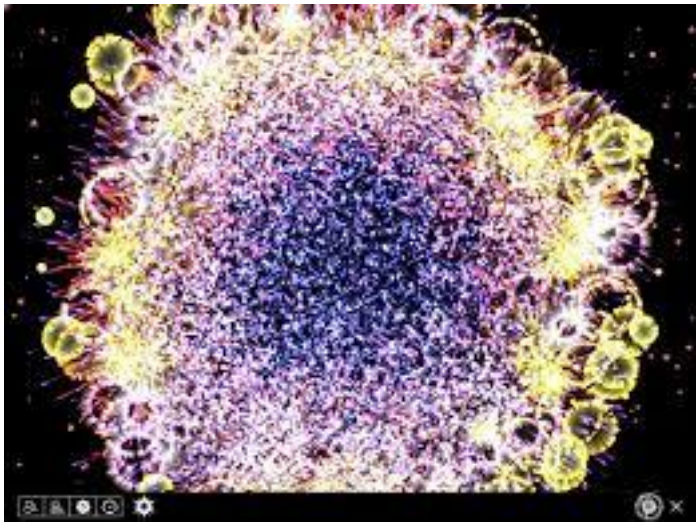
Short YouTube video of it in action:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSDDvCBmrkE

Fission Art (**Free** - can upgrade) - interactive art.

Developed by Luke Hill using the concept of nuclear fission - that does sound unusual! There are controls to use for the nuclear explosions so that motion, particle size and fragments can be changed as well as background colour. Very intricate, unusual designs and patterns slowly evolve.



https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fission-lite-half-life/id486180990

https://www.mwallpapers.com/apps/entertainment/486180990

Fireworks Piano (**Free**) - music, cause and effect, drag/tap.

Play the piano and drum up a storm of rockets and tunes. Very clear images, movement and sound.

https://apps.apple.com/tr/app/fireworks-piano/id1066723099

https://apkpure.com/fireworks-piano/tr.com.mnk.nurettin.fireworkspiano

Beanie's Musical Instruments (**Free** - upgrade £1.99) - simple music lesson!

This is for the music teacher and unmusical folk, too. Beanie reminds me of Mr Bean's teddy. So this app is for **everyone** who likes Mr Bean. I am a fan of his teddy!

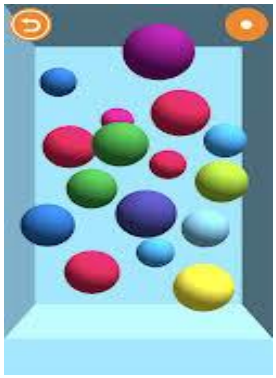
Watch the YouTube video below for a preview of Beanie's day session and the night session follows on. Only on iPad so far:

https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/beanies-musical-instruments/id833043897?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWMp8EGnWXE

Ballplaying (all one word) (**Free**) - tap, tilt the screen, simple cause and effect.

Clear the screen, tap - and large coloured balls appear and bounce around. That is it! Tap quickly and the screen fills up and then the balls quietly disappear. Cause and effect when the empty screen is tapped again … they start to reappear!



https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.monois.android.eduapp8&hl=en_US

https://apps.apple.com/dz/app/ball-playing/id694548544

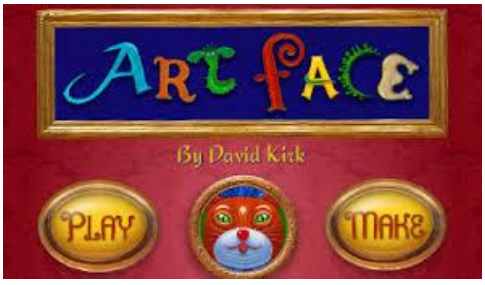
Art Face by David Kirk (**Free** at the moment) - tap, creativity, facial recognition.

For adults tooooooo!

Message from the creator David Kirk:

"I'm making my 'Art Face by David Kirk' app free while we're all locked down! I worked an entire year on this toy. Please give it a try and share it if you know anyone who would like to play". David Kirk is an illustrator and author.

Super simple, creative app that really is artistic and creative. Bouncy music background and then an empty abstract face comes onto the screen. Tap on a face part and an unusual moving image appears inside. Tap again and again for a face full of action and surprise. You can download the faces too. Well done David, I love this app!



https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/art-face-by-david-kirk/id1119159551

(Not on Android at the moment)

Protect your tablet or iPad!

Loads of good cases around from online suppliers, just make sure you have the one specified for your tablet.

Last summer I had my iPad (in an ordinary case) with me as I sat in the garden, enjoying the sunshine. Suddenly two eager Labradors rushed up to see me and it fell onto the floor. There it was with a spider's web appearing on the screen!

I searched to find a new screen and found out it would cost £300 to renovate the damage with a new screen. Gulp!

So I did a Flo repair with strategically placed Elastoplast and it is doing well and still useable. The moral of this tale is that you all need to buy a very good protective case for any tablet. I am in the process of getting a Griffin all-terrain case (around £40) which is tested to military drop-test standards. The dogs have been threatened with the Dogs Home if it happens again! The culprits below……

A look at the 'thumbjam' app!

This app has been around ever since the iPad came along and has been enjoyed by very special learners.

'Mike's creative apps' site from the brilliant Victoria Education School in Poole, (https://www.victoria.poole.sch.uk) demonstrates 'thumbjam'. Here is Mike!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aj108FdxH_8

Here is a special musician playing 'thumbjam' using a wowee speaker (from Drake Music Scotland - www.drakemusicscotland.org).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZp2c4LpWL8

Drake music Scotland thumbjam iPad session - drakemusicscotland.org for info.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGDotPnegXU

Bloom (£3.99)
Bloom:10 Worlds (£7.99)

Music, well-being, creativity (with Brian Eno and Peter Chivers).

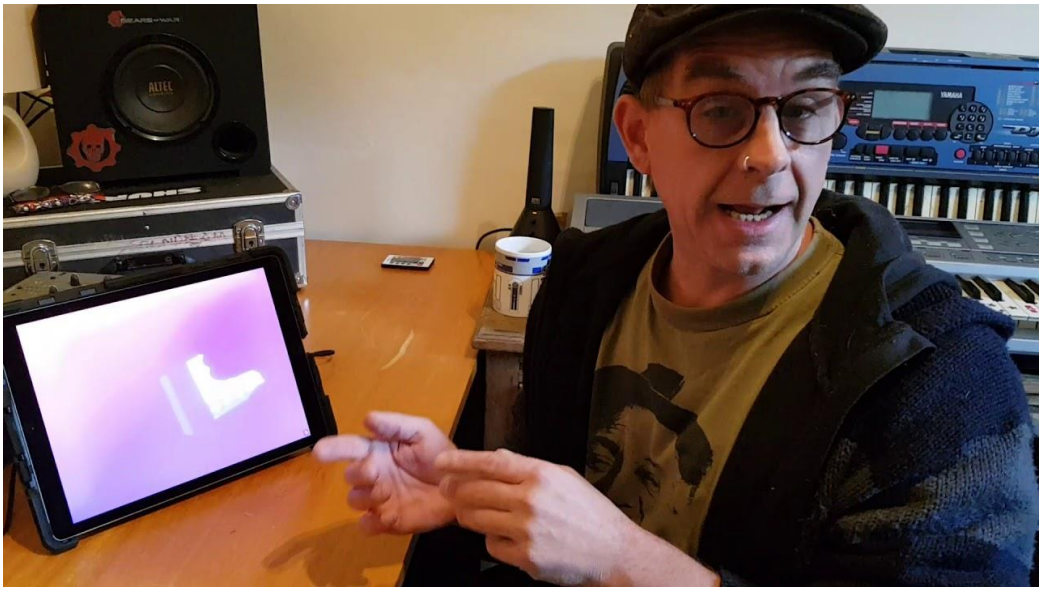
This is a classic app (created in 2008) which is for a particular audience who really enjoy this type of creative music sound.

A quote about the app: "Developed by ambient pioneer Brian Eno and musician / software designer Peter Chilvers, ***Bloom*** explores uncharted territory in the realm of applications for the iPhone and iPod touch. Part instrument, part composition and part artwork, Bloom's innovative controls allow anyone to create elaborate patterns and unique melodies by simply tapping the screen. A generative music player takes over when ***Bloom*** is left idle, creating an infinite selection of compositions and their accompanying visualisations."

https://apps.apple.com/app/bloom/id292792586

(No Android version)

Watch what Mikes Apps shows and listen to the quality of the sound. 'Mikes Apps ***Bloom*** app and how to amplify the sound' at Victoria Education Centre.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkpkExVLD00

Lightning Aden Ray (**Free**) - tap and hold, science, music.

The screen is filled with vivid, coloured electrical storms which collect around a fingertip. There is a choice of spacey music and the size, length, speed of the electricity can be controlled. Aden Ray is a musician.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sunglab.neoart&hl=en_GB&gl=US

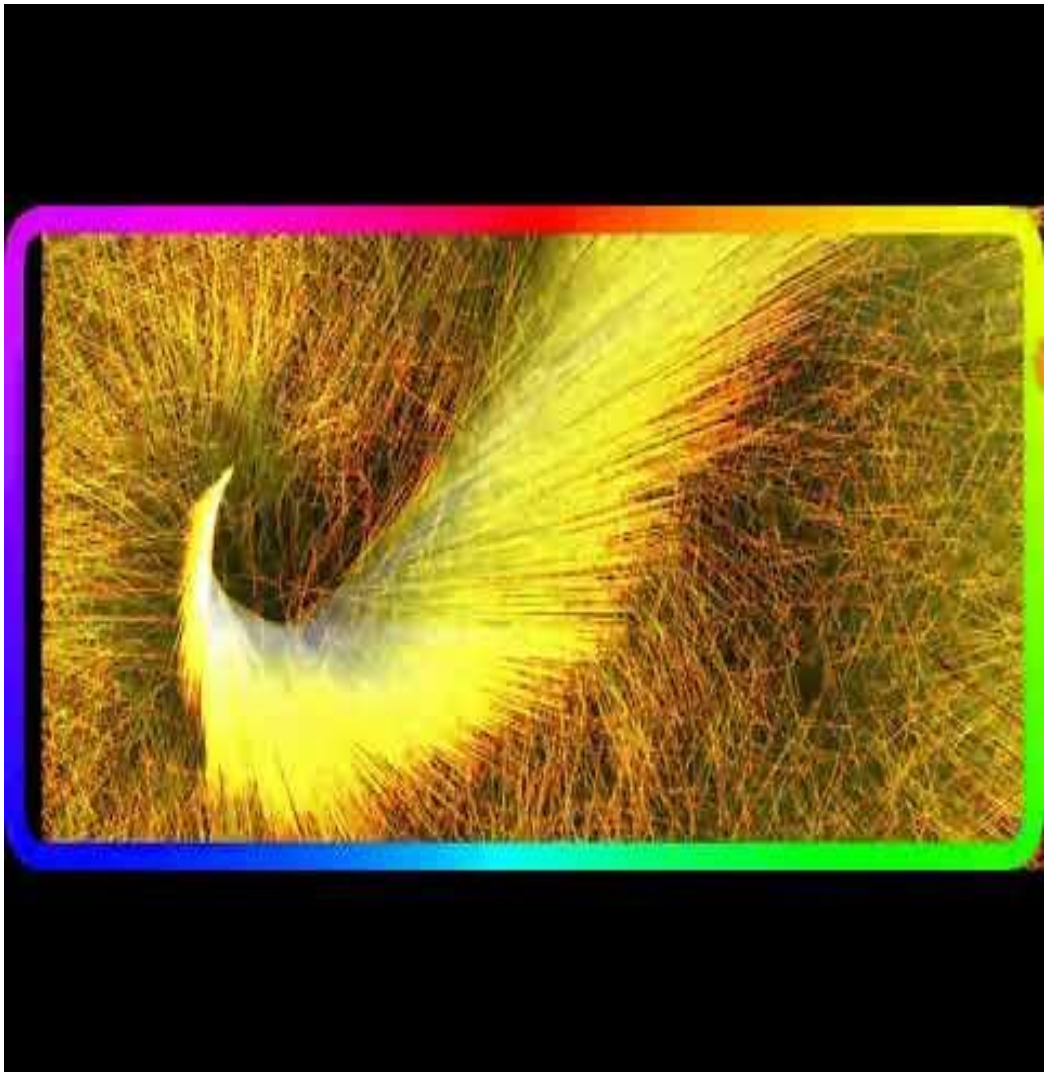
https://apps.apple.com/bn/app/lightning-art/id1070841457

Triple a Touch Visualiser (**Free**) - intense vivid moving colour, fingertips, sounds.

Wow, very intense images and sounds - love it, get it! You choose from triple art mode named art wave, art particle, art gravity (I found the words hard to find on the screen, look closely under the words 'triple art mode'). Art gravity is the most intense in the app.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sunglab.tripleafree&hl=en_US&gl=US

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/triple-a-hd-touch-visualizer/id857607006



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2yFctP-uGo

Have a quick flash on YouTube above!

The Festive Winter Season 2020

I spent a rainy afternoon looking for good apps to use over the festive season. Unfortunately, there are very few worth flagging up, most were dreadful, with loads of adverts. Below are some that will perhaps give pleasure and indicate that Christmas is a special, human time of the year. Regarding all the religious festivities over this winter season, there were no apps that would appeal, and none are free. Just enjoy the real sensory spiritual aspects of fireworks, special food, candles, Christmas music and religious stories from all faiths - within the uniqueness of a school/home Christmas time together.

Below, some YouTube clips. Amazing joyful Christmas signing from brilliant signers!

'Jingle Bells' followed by 'Christmas Pudding'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDslhWHjFcA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCg7hjiJx9k

Toca Hair Xmas Salon (**Free**) - drama, fun, tap and drag, life skills.

An app from the excellent Toca Boca series which is free and fun. There is a choice of cutting the hair of Father Christmas or a Christmas tree. Choose an image and set to work. There is a comb, scissors, hairdryer and so on. Tap the scissors and then use a finger to cut his hair and beard. Good sound effects and the hairdryer does a roaring blow dry! When finished, take a snap of the finished hair style.

YouTube - Watch the hairdresser in action (click on the image or link below)!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHbFmGX7yDc

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/toca-hair-salon-christmas/id481623941

https://baixarapk.gratis/en/app/481623941/toca-hair-salon-christmas

Jingle Bell - Christmas (**Free**) music, sounds, cause and effect.

Devised by Niraj Manguklya, there are a selection of bells to play, with one bell image on the screen, at a time. Shake the tablet and it will play bell sounds.

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/jingle-bell-christmas/id1450102011
(No Android version)

Santa's Christmas Sleigh for Toddlers (**Free**) - swipe left to right, tap, story, fun.

The background music is Christmassy as Santa drives his reindeer along pulling sledges full of objects and creatures. Swipe left to right and as each sledge enters the screen stop, then tap anywhere. Little events happen and funny noises to delight. I like the last sledge when there are some naughty little bears, tap on them and see what they do! YouTube video below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp1zrgo6Up4

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/santas-christmas-sleigh-for-toddlers/id759014975
(No Android version)

Holiday Jams (**Free**) - interactive music, creative, fun.

This is the best musical Christmas app ever! Excellent app, loud brassy, bound to annoy grown-ups! Choose a crazy musician and drag them onto the stage. Choose an instrument and play away. Beautifully discordant and very repetitive! Have a peep on YouTube below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxuCbiIvnmE

https://apps.apple.com/nz/app/holiday-jams/id1170282497
(No Android version)

Hey Duggee: Tinsel Badge (**Free**) – story, interactive.

Made by the BBC from a cartoon series about 'Duggee'.

Duggee has his friends help him decorate the Christmas tree and when they have finished, he awards a tinsel star. The narrator has a male voice. Watch the story on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHEa8iCUNbI

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bbc.heyduggeetinselbadgeapp&hl=en_SG
https://apps.apple.com/us/app/hey-duggee-the-tinsel-badge/id1053066296

Christmas Music Box - Popular Xmas Carols and Melodies (**Free**) - tap, sounds.

Just tap on an image for a Christmas tune played on a musical box. Nice and calming! Turn the page and there is a selection of classical music to tap and play.

https://apps.apple.com/bm/app/christmas-music-box-popular-xmas-carols-and-melodies/id949438068
(No Android version)

Talking Creatures for the Holiday Season

Talking Gremlin HD:Christmas Special (**Free**)

For the iPad:
https://apps.apple.com/us/app/talking-gremlin-christmas-special/id407299437

(No Android version)

Talking Snowman (99p)

For the iPad:
https://apps.apple.com/us/app/talking-snowman/id298930946

Talking Snowman (**Free**)

Android version.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.elurapps.christmastalkingsnowman&hl=en