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IPAD MUSIC APPS

There are hundreds of apps available, some of which are more use than others. After spending time exploring, we installed the apps listed below onto the Jessie's Fund iPads. Here is a brief introduction to the apps we've found to be most useful in working with children who have special educational needs and disabilities. Prices are added for information, correct in 2017. To preview the apps, try a search for them on youtube – many have demo videos there. If you just want a few apps, the best (in our opinion!) are the ones on this first page.

GarageBand (Free in newer iPads)

A deceptively powerful app in which you can play a range of touch instruments - keyboards, guitars, strings, drums. You can record tunes and external sounds including voice, and you can make loops.

Full user help is here: <http://help.apple.com/garageband/ipad/2.0.7/>

ThumbJam (£8.99)

You get over 40 high-quality real instrument sounds and hundreds of included scales allow you to play in any style from rock to classical. The app has a menu on the top left of the screen where you can change instrument sound, scale, and volume. On the top right is the facility to record. You can bend the pitch by tilting the iPad, and you can even do a finger vibrato. Full user manual is here: <http://thumbjam.com/usersguide>

Bloom (£3.99)

Simply tapping or dragging a finger on the screen produces gentle visuals and calming music that regenerates over time. Click on the icon in the bottom right corner to get to the settings page and play around. All very soothing!

Echo String Lite (free) A lovely harp sound, with different chord options and a colourful interface. You can record as you play.

AirHarp: touchless 3D harp by NR (99p)

Very simple harp which uses the iPad camera to pick up movement and create sound.

SoundPrism (free)

This is a tool which allows you to create harmonic patterns very easily. At the same time it is quite a sophisticated app with a lot of different settings available: it's well worth spending a bit of time getting to know it. There is a quick introduction here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=385CymvTecU>

For more detailed instructions go to <http://www.soundprismhowto.com/howto2/index.php>

aXylophone (free) Very simple app - just like playing xylophone. You can play single notes or chords. There is no option to add accidentals - you only have one octave in C major.

Aumi (free) This uses the camera on the iPad as a sensor for picking up movement and turning it into sound. More range of sounds and customisation than Airvox.

BarrelTones (free)

Just a drum kit, but pretty realistic, with a few tracks to play along with.

Falling Stars (free)

A really simple app. Tap the larger stars and they will fall, creating sounds as they hit the ground. Tap the logo at the bottom left of the screen to display the controls. Tap a leaf and draw a shape on the screen. Tap a star above it and it will drop down and bounce. The music can be saved to play or edit later. Tap the i on the right bottom corner for a short tutorial.

Magic Piano (free, can be upgraded at a cost)

This app gives you tunes to play which require some dexterity. But there's also the option to play 'Solo: freestyle', which will probably be more useful to you. There are different options of keyboard layout. Once on the conventional keyboard you can shrink it or enlarge it, and slide it along so a different range is available.

If you have favourite apps which don't appear on this list, we'd be pleased to hear which they are. Let us know by emailing info@jessiesfund.org.uk.