



Hey Everybody, C'mon Get 'Appy

Visual-Impairment Friendly Apps for Young Children

Sarah E. Hart

**Assistant Coordinator of Residential Living, Deafblind School
Perkins School for the Blind**



Hello! I am:

- A nerd who enjoys assistive tech
- A 10-year vet of special education
- Better-looking in my favorite app, Stardew Valley



1. Why Get Appy?
2. The Apps
3. Adapt the Apps
4. The Future
5. Staying Appy

Our Itinerary for Today



Why Get Appy?

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.”

- Unknown



- Fine motor skills
- Transferring learning concepts
- Promote meaningful learning and social interaction
- Versatility!



Why Get Appy?

- Customizability
- Accessibility
- Interactivity
- Portability
- Socialization



Benefits of Apps for CVI/VI Children



My Testers:

Perkins & Non-Perkins Students

All have additional disabilities

All are nonverbal or use AAC or sign

50% have CHARGE/are deafblind

25% needed additional adaptations



Who did all the work here, anyway?



The Apps

“All the world is a laboratory to an inquiring mind.” – Martin H. Fischer



Just the facts, ma'am!

- Name, publisher, price
- Ranking in eight learning categories
- Additional thoughts from my testers

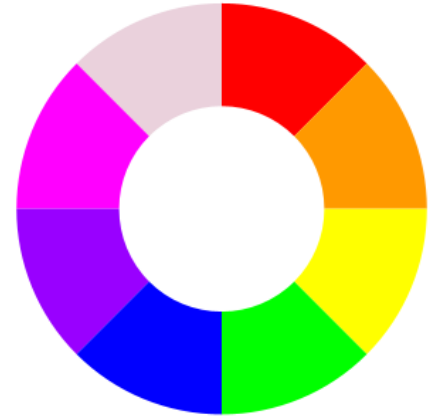


Eight Factors for Play

- CVI Focus
- Bright Colors
- Sound Responsive
- Fine Motor Skills
- Free Play
- Sensory Engagement
- Adaptable
- Preschool Concepts

- CVI Focus
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Eight Factors for Play



- ## Baby Piano
- Yories Preschool
 - Free with in-app purchases

CVI Focus ● Bright Colors ● Sound Responsive ● Fine Motor ● Free Play
● Sensory ● Adaptable Preschool Concepts





The App in Motion



CVI Focus ● Bright Colors ● Sound Responsive ● Fine Motor ● Free Play
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Balloon Pop

Xiangyi Liu
Free with ads





The App in Motion



Bubble Bop

Riddim Software
Free

- CVI Focus
- Bright Colors
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- Fine Motor
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- Preschool Concepts





The App in Motion

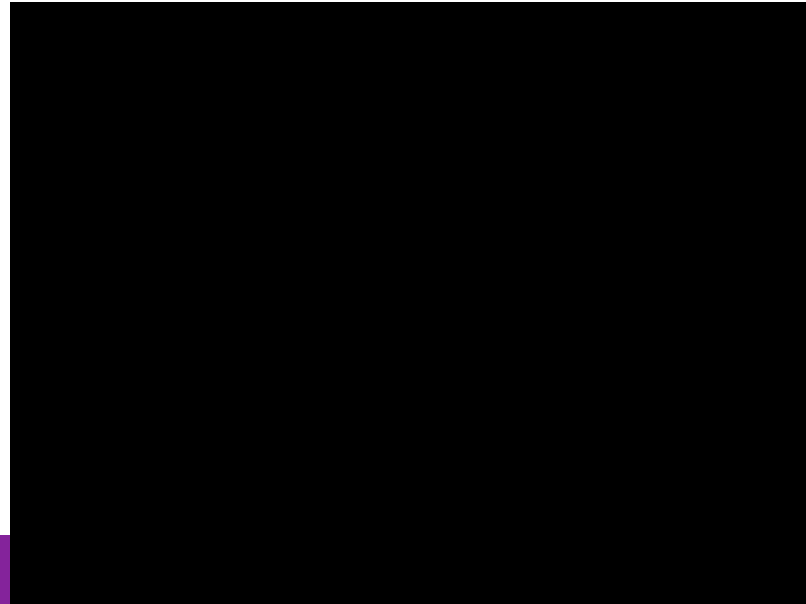


Crazy Gears

Edoki Academy
\$4.99

CVI Focus Bright Colors Sound Responsive Fine Motor Free Play
Sensory Adaptable Preschool Concepts





The App in Motion



EDA PLAY TOM

Eda
Free

● CMI Focus ● Bright Colors ● Sound Responsive ● Fine Motor ● Free Play
● Sensory ● Adaptable ● Preschool Concepts





The App in Motion

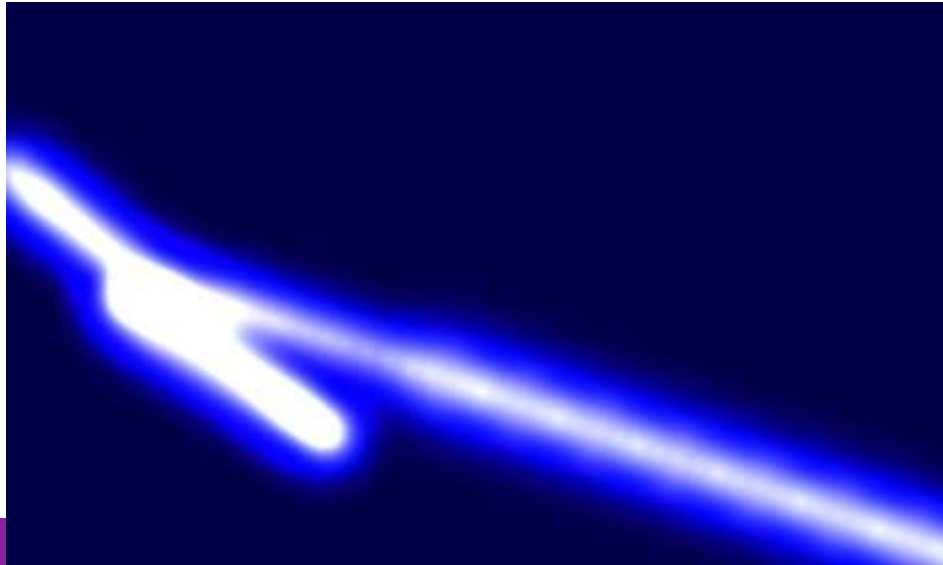


Electra

Sensory App House LTD
Free

- CVI Focus
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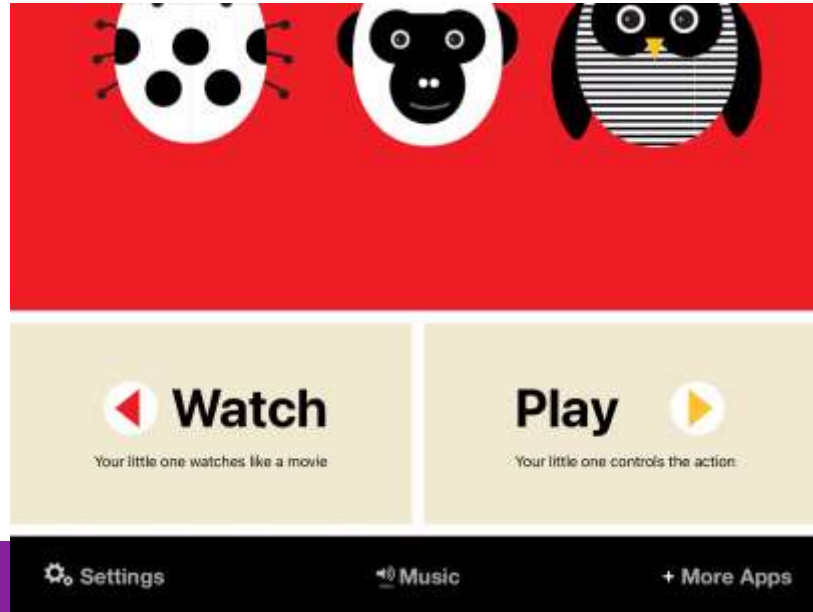
The App in Motion



Infant Zoo
treebetty LLC
Lite Version is free
Deluxe Version is \$3.99

- CVI Focus
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- Sensory
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- Preschool Concepts
- Free Play





The App in Motion



I <3 Fireworks

Fireworks Games

\$0.99

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The App in Motion



- CV Focus
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Joy Doodle

Doodle Joy Studios

Lite Version is free

Ad-Free Version is \$0.99



EARLY
CONNECTIONS
CONFERENCE

Perkins SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND



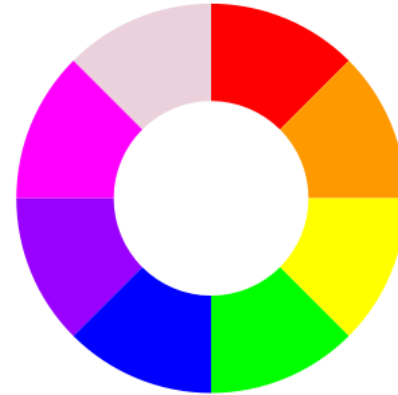
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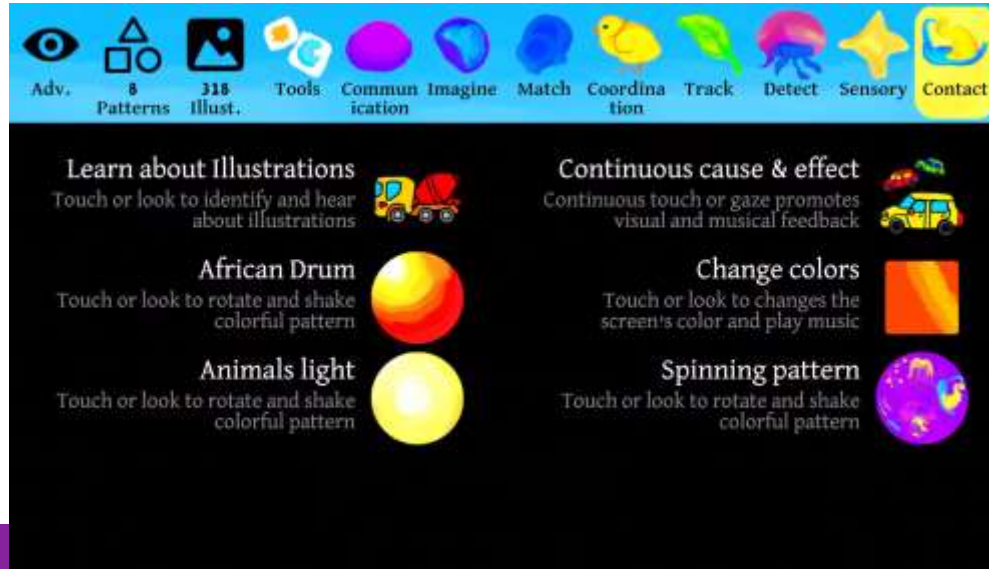


Light Activity


Eliya Association
for the Blind
Free


- CVI Focus
- Bright Colors
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- Preschool Concepts








Adv. 8 318 Tools Commun Imagine Match Coordina Track Detect Sensory Contact
Patterns Illust. ication tion


Learn about Illustrations
Touch or look to identify and hear about illustrations 

African Drum
Touch or look to rotate and shake colorful pattern 

Animals light
Touch or look to rotate and shake colorful pattern 

Continuous cause & effect
Continuous touch or gaze promotes visual and musical feedback 

Change colors
Touch or look to changes the screen's color and play music 

Spinning pattern
Touch or look to rotate and shake colorful pattern 

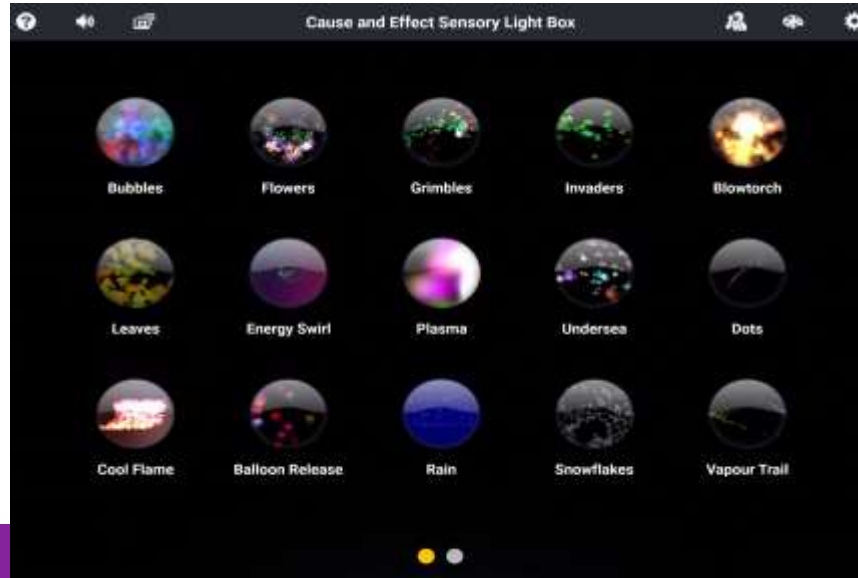
The App in Motion



Cause and Effect Light Box Cognable \$3.99

- CVI Focus
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The App in Motion



Music Box
Sago Mini
\$3.99

CVI Focus ● Bright Colors ● Sound Responsive ● Fine Motor ● Free Play
● Sensory ● Adaptable ● Preschool Concepts





The App in Motion



My Baby Drums

Dokdo Entertainment
\$0.99

CVI Focus ● Bright Colors ● Sound Responsive ● Fine Motor ● Free Play
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The App in Motion



Onni + Ilona Happy Shapes

Pintxo Creative

Lite Version is free

Deluxe Version is \$4.99

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The App in Motion



Onni + Ilona Happy Animals

Pintxo Creative

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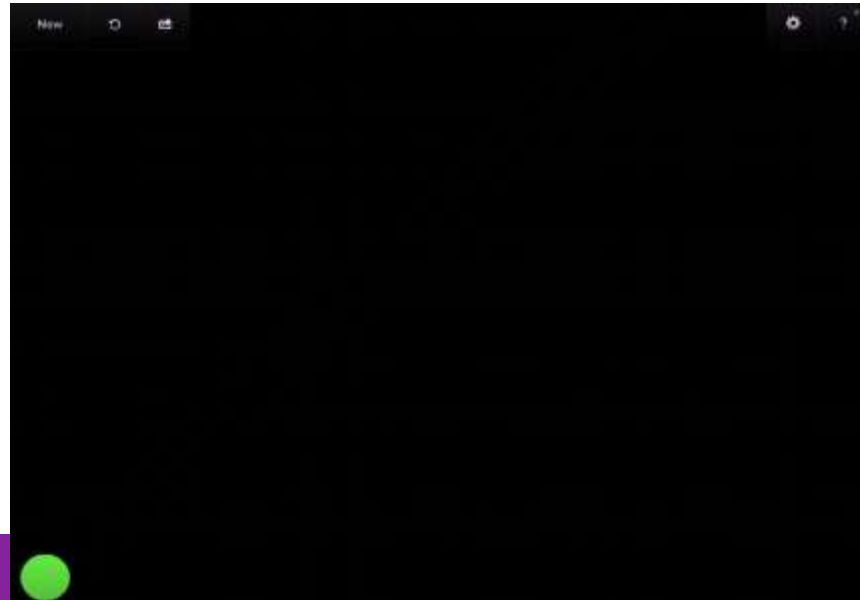
The App in Motion



Silk:
Interactive Generative Art
Yuri Vishnevsky
\$2.99

- CVI Focus
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The App in Motion



Smart Shapes

Viacheslav Fonderkin

Free

CVI Focus Bright Colors Sound Responsive Fine Motor Sensory Adaptable Preschool Concepts Free Play





The App in Motion



Tap-N-See Now

Little Bear Sees

\$2.99

- CVI Focus
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- Free Play





The App in Motion



Touch to Jump

Inclusive Technology Ltd
\$3.99

- CVI Focus
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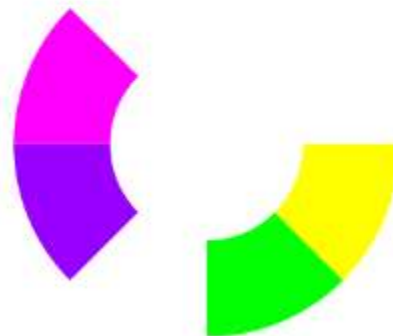


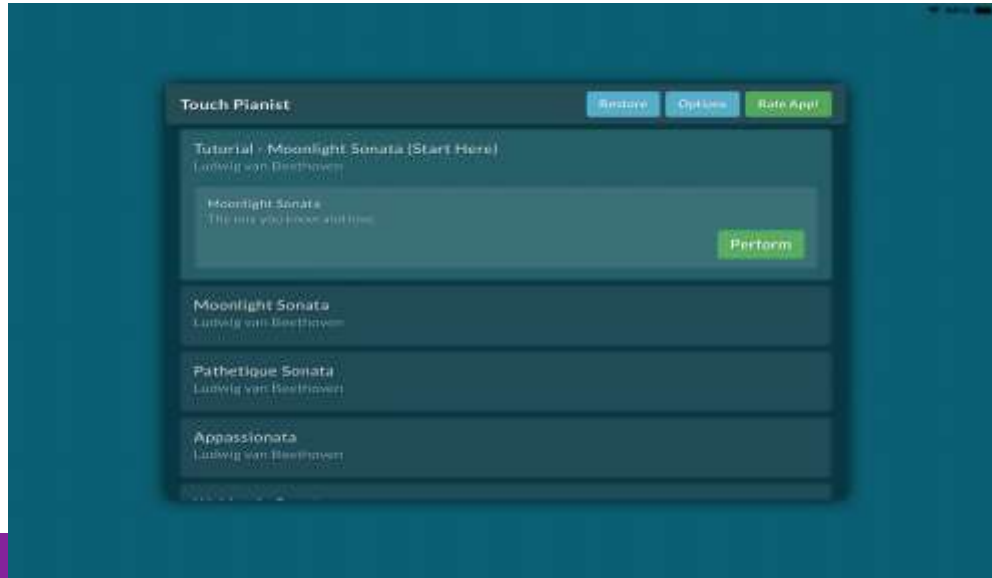
The App in Motion



Touch Pianist
EarSlap
Free with in-app
purchases

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The App in Motion

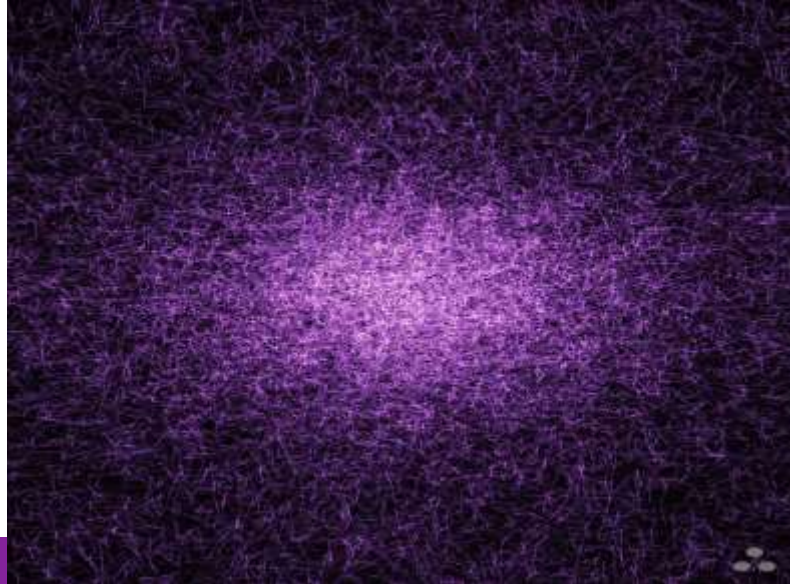


Triple A: Mesmerize Touch

European App
Solutions
Free with in-app
purchases

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The App in Motion



Let's Ad-app-t It!

“Imagination will take you everywhere.” – Albert Einstein



Why Adapt?

- Social normality
- Education becomes fun and portable
- Allows children with disabilities to access content
- Starting now means success later

Types of Adaptations

- Switches
- Styluses
- Braces/hand support
- Mounts





Resources for Adaptations

- Your child's OT
- Your child's assistive tech specialist
 - You!



Switches



Setting Up Switch Capability



Perkins SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND



Eazy Hold



Styluses



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BLIND



Head Mounts



The Future!

“If you don’t know where you’re going, you might end up somewhere else.” – Yogi Berra

- Children learning to use AAC
- Kids and young adults playing video games with adaptations
- Fully blind individuals playing off-the-shelf video games
- Companies putting accessibility first!



What does the future look like?



- The opportunity to be part of tech development
- The opportunity to try new things
- The opportunity to help companies develop accessibility protocols – either as consumers or employees

What does the future look like?



Staying Appy

“Are you ready for a miracle? / As ready as I can be”
– Patti LaBelle



- Ask for upgrades!
- Share success stories
- Try new things
- Dream big
- Ask questions



How to keep 'appy



This information in text form can be found on my Medium page:
@Sarah.Hart_25995

I'm also available at
sarah.hart@perkins.org





Thank You!

Any questions?



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Perkins.org/EarlyCC