

## REL PACIFIC ASK-A-REL RESPONSE

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### Best Practices for Kindergarten and First-Grade iPad Use August 2012

#### INQUIRY

***What are best practices and recommended apps for using iPads with Kindergarten and first-grade students?***

In response to this inquiry, the REL Pacific Reference Desk at McREL, located in Honolulu, HI, accessed the National Library of Education, an information referral service supported by the Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance. REL Pacific also conducted a supplemental search of education research databases and resources.

#### SEARCH TERMS USED

Kindergarten; grade one; first grade; primary school; early learner; iPad(s); technology; tool; best practices; apps; exemplary apps; recommended apps; best practices using iPad kindergarten

The researcher reviewed the initial search results, seeking literature on and examples of applications for iPads that can be used with kindergarten and first grade students. Then the researcher vetted results for studies that directly or indirectly related to the use of iPads in the classroom. Educational blogs were identified through a Google search using the search terms: best practices using iPad kindergarten.

#### DATABASES SEARCHED

Academic Search Premier; Education Research Complete; Education Resources Information Center (ERIC); Google; PsycINFO; Education Full Text (H.W. Wilson); ProQuest Dissertations and Theses; ProQuest Educational Journals

*Resources identified in the search are listed below. The hyperlink to each resource is provided. Descriptions of programs and articles have been reproduced verbatim from their respective websites or abstracts.*

#### RESOURCE OVERVIEW

The resources provided in the following sections are not research-based and should only serve as an overview of iPad use in the classroom. We could not find any research that examined best practices and recommended apps using iPads. Existing literature focused on using new technology rather than the effectiveness and appropriateness of specific iPad apps. Because literature on the use of iPads was not specific to kindergarten through first grade, the search was expanded to the use of iPads through primary school. Although specific apps have not been investigated in academic literature, there is a healthy discussion within educational blogs about classroom apps for iPads. For this reason, a number of blogs and related websites that discuss the use of iPads in the classroom have been included as a supplementary resource.

The information that is provided in this document (a) provides a short list of articles on iPads and the use of technology in kindergarten or primary school classrooms, and (b) provides links and brief descriptions of

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educational blogs and online resources which discuss the use of specific iPad apps in the classroom.

### RESULTING ARTICLES

Due to the limited number of empirical studies on the use of iPad technology in early learner classrooms, non-academic articles overviewing the use of iPads in kindergarten and primary school classrooms have also been included.

Banister, S. (2010). Integrating the iPod Touch in K-12 education: Visions and vices. *Computers in the Schools*, 27(2). doi: 10.1080/07380561003801590.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07380561003801590>

**Abstract:** Advocates of ubiquitous computing have long been documenting classroom benefits of one-to-one ratios of students to handheld or laptop computers. The recent sophisticated capabilities of the iPod Touch, iPhone, and iPad have encouraged further speculation on exactly how K–12 teaching and learning might be energized by such devices. This paper summarizes the research to date on mobile learning for K–12 students, and then delineates specific features and applications available on the iPod Touch that might impact student learning across the curricula. Finally, caveats are offered regarding the introduction and assimilation of these handheld computers into K–12 schools.

Blagojevic, B. (2011). iPads in K-3: Notes from Maine's leveraging learning institute. *Children's Technology Review*, 19(12). 4-5.

<http://childrenstech.com/blog/archives/6028>

**Abstract:** Information on the conference entitled Leveraging Learning Institute held in Auburn, Maine from November 16-18, 2011 is presented. The conference focuses on the announcement of the district's schools to provide every Kindergartener with an iPad. It discusses the necessity of creating an educational program that can be customized by each learner. Consultant Mike Muir focuses on giving emphasis on the learning process. The advantages and disadvantages of iPad implementation are also discussed.

Children's Technology Review. (2012). iPads in kindergarten. *Children's Technology Review*, 20(12). 2-2.

<http://childrenstech.com/blog/archives/6186>

**Abstract:** The article discusses the topics in the video "The Ipad Teacher" featuring Chris Crowell at <http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDE5C25B50EF55422>, which include the introduction of iPad in kindergarten, the use of its camera, and the introduction of a new application software for the device.

Crowell, C. (2011). 40 kindergarteners and 1 iPad. *Children's Technology Review* 19(11). 6-6.

<http://childrenstech.com/blog/archives/5682>

**Abstract:** The article focuses on the use of iPad 2 in teaching kindergartens about respect. It mentions that iPad 2 was used to record video of children's role-play to show the librarian that the children know the procedure of selecting and checking out a book and for children to understand respect to the librarian and other people who use the library. Moreover, the children also viewed their video while walking in the hallway, which allow[ed] them to understand that respect can be shown by walking quietly.

Saine, P. (2012). iPods, iPads, and the SMARTBoard: Transforming literacy instruction and student learning. *New England Reading Association Newsletter*, 3(2). 74-79.

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P3-2618506571.html>

**Abstract:** The article offers the author’s insights regarding the use of iPods, iPads and the SMARTBoard in the classroom, which helps in transforming literacy instruction and student learning. The author says that first grade teacher Pagia George of the American International School of Lagos in Nigeria uses iPods in her social studies instructional activities. Furthermore, she notes that the digital divide should be ignored and equipping the schools with digital tools should be a priority.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Articles on the use of iPads in the classroom did not address the use of specific apps. However, NLE identified two organizations which foster discussion on best practices using technology in the classroom. In addition, educational blogs were found to frequently reference specific apps and may be a good resource to explore appropriate apps for use in kindergarten and first grade classrooms. The blogs presented below include the top search results using Google. Results that did not explicitly reference the use of iPad in the classroom were not included. It is important to note that all recommendations or best practices presented in the resources below are not research-based and should be critically considered before adopting or adapting into a classroom setting.

International Society for Technology in Education

<http://www.iste.org/>

“The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the premier member association for educators and education leaders engaged in improving learning and teaching by advancing the effective use of technology in PK–12 and teacher education. ISTE represents more than 100,000 education leaders and emerging leaders throughout the world and informs its members regarding educational issues of national and global scope.”

Common Sense Media

<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

“Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology. We exist because our nation’s children spend more time with media and digital activities than they do with their families or in school, which profoundly impacts their social, emotional, and physical development. As a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, we provide trustworthy information and tools, as well as an independent forum, so that families can have a choice and a voice about the media they consume.”

### **Education Blogs**

Primary iPad Pilot Project

<http://ipadpilot.blogspot.com/p/project-info.html>

“This blog contains information about the Primary iPad Project at Vancouver Talmud Torah School in Vancouver, Canada. VTT Teacher, Nicole Chatz, is documenting the process as part of her action research in Simon Fraser University's Learning & Teaching with Technology Diploma program.”

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“The purpose of this study is to evaluate the iPad as a learning tool, by looking at how it affects student engagement in the primary classroom. Data will be gathered from approximately 200 Kindergarten to Grade 3 students at Vancouver Talmud Torah School, in Vancouver, Canada to assess the impact of the iPad on students’ motivation to learn in the classroom. Previous studies have shown that in order to stay relevant in the 21st Century, schools need to stay on top of rapid changes introduced by digital media. In its short existence as a learning tool, the iPad has enabled teachers to promote collaborative, independent, and differentiated learning.”

#### Digital Kindergarten

<http://digitalkindergarten.blogspot.com/2012/03/using-ipad-as-mini-white-board.html>

“Using technology in meaningful, developmentally appropriate ways to make learning come alive and differentiate instruction so that all students achieve. I hope this blog is helpful to anyone utilizing technology with children. If you have found it useful, I appreciate you letting me know and sharing with others.”

#### iPad Insight

<http://ipadinsight.com/ipad-in-education-2/study-shows-ipads-in-kindergarten-class-improveliteracy/>

“iPad Insight is here to provide iPad app and accessory reviews, iPad tips and tricks, iPad news, and insight on all things iPad. This site offers original iPad-focused content every day, to help you get the most out of the iPad and discover all the best apps and accessories for it.”

#### 1:1 in Practice

<http://1to1inpractice.blogspot.com/2010/06/my-top-10-ipad-apps-for-kindergarten.html>

“This blog is an attempt to document the practical implementation of the 1:1 laptop program at Sinarmas World Academy. The program is currently in its fourth year. Included in this blog will be all uses of technology beyond laptops and other handy tools used in education.”

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