



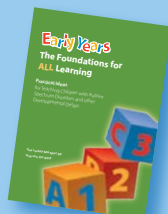
14 Key Strategies for Managing iPads and Tablets

1. Decide if your goal(s) are education, communication, entertainment, motivation, organisation and/or relaxation.
2. Establish rules and put boundaries in place around their use to ensure it is used appropriately. Use the settings on the iPad which has inbuilt capabilities to restrict the users access. iPads must be monitored to achieve the best outcomes. Have rules, routines/schedules around when and what they will be doing on the iPad.
3. They will not like stopping in the middle of a game so it is important you can save games, or they learn to check how long a game is before they start it.
4. Even if bought primarily for your child, refer to the iPad as yours. This makes it easier to control access to the iPad as it appears not to belong to the child. However, if the iPad is being used as a communication device the child needs access to it at all times. Consider having rules about when and where they can access the iPad. Many families have a rule where it goes at bedtime.
5. Put Apps into categories 'Home', 'School', 'English', 'Maths', 'Games' as many children see the iPad as 'fun' they can't always distinguish between a game and an educational tool.
6. Choose Apps that complement the child's IEP (Individual Education Plan) – the iPad is an ideal way of reinforcing school learning as well as providing opportunities for other learning. See book Apps for Autism which saves hours of time looking for Apps and wasting money on wrong Apps. The book reviews the best Apps and how can they be used for learning.
7. Download the Apps from iTunes onto your main computer. Sync across to the iPad. You can then control how many your child has access to at any one time.
8. Don't assume that because the name Autism appears in the title or the App is listed in a list of Apps for autism that the App is suitable for children on the spectrum. It may just be a marketing tool.
9. Ensure the student can transfer skills from iPad to paper. If they are learning times tables or spelling words ensure they can do them in their workbook as well.
10. Use the iPad to teach social skills – turn taking, losing games, use the camera to video social skills.
11. Use the 'lock' function to stop them consistently clicking out of Apps they don't want to do. Especially when using for educational purposes.
12. Use for building skills and accommodating – handwriting, voice recording, etc.
13. Use a stylus for writing activities on the iPad. AluPen is a chunky hexagonal pencil-like stylus; thinner styluses are available for older children.
14. Buy a strong case. There are a number available. Griffin Survivor, Otterbox, Koosh and Lifeproof.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Early Years: Foundations for All Learning

By Sue Larkey and Gay von Ess



Developing Social Skills

By Sue Larkey and Gay von Ess



Apps for Autism

By Lois Jean Brady

