Using Mobile Apps Creatively to Meet Therapy Goals

Heidi Hanks, MS CCC-SLP

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Disclosures:

Heidi Hanks is the co-creator of Little Bee Speech Apps and receives income from Little Bee Speech App Sales.

Examples in this course will be from Little Bee Speech apps. Additional apps targeting language goals discussed are listed in the printable handout.
“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.”

-George Couros, Author of The Innovators Mindset
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1. Choosing Educationally Relevant Mobile Apps
Is the App Educational?

- Can the app be used to target a therapy goal?
- Can the app be used to target multiple therapy goals?
- Does it collect data?
- Is the data easy to share?
- Are there instructions or video tutorials that address how to use the app?
- Does the developer have a website with additional information about the app?
- Is the concept of the app based on evidence based practices?
Is the App Relevant?

☑ Has the app received positive reviews in the App Store? (If there are negative reviews, are they valid?)

☑ Does the app get positive reviews on other app review sites and/or from colleagues and friends?

☑ Does the developer have a history of maintaining and updating the app?
Does the App Fit Your Mobile Needs?

✓ Is the app available on a platform that will work with your device (iOS, Android, etc.)?
✓ Is your device compatible with the OS the app was developed for?
✓ Can the app be run without an internet connection?
Does the App Have Good Usability?

- Is it easy to use?
- Is the user experience pleasant?
- Is it engaging and motivating?
- Is it customizable?
- Is there a free or lite version to try?
- Is it free of ads or distracting popups?
- Does the developer have good customer service?
- Will it make you more productive?
- Does it improve communication between SLPs and parents?
“It doesn’t matter how many resources (apps) you have... if you don’t know how to use them it will never be enough.”

-Author Unknown
2. Using Apps Creatively to Meet Therapy Goals
Example Goal #1

Categories

The student will label a picture and identify the category it belongs to and say a carrier phrase to label the category, ("The __________ is a toy").
The _____ is/one a food.
Example Goal #2

Describing

The student will meaningfully use (X-word) sentences to describe a picture with no more than one prompt or reminder. Sentences will be grammatically correct and meaningful to the context.
What is it used for? (function)
Example Goal #3

Answering Questions

The student will meaningfully use (X-word) sentences when answering (is/are, do/does, who, what, where, when, why, how) questions about pictures, illustrations and/or stories.
The parrot was perched in the tree.
Example Goal #4

Asking Questions

The student will meaningfully use (X-X- word) (is/are, do/does, who, what, where, when, why, how) questions to obtain clarification and interact about pictures and stories during discussions.
Who?
Example Goal #5

Intelligibility

The student will use clear speech in at least multiple (X-word) sentences to retell a story, describe a scene or relate an experience.
Example Goal #6

Articulation

The student will use target sound(s) (X) in (isolation, syllables, words, phrases, sentences and connected speech).
“Technology is nothing. What’s important is that you have faith in people, that they’re basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they’ll do wonderful things with them.”

-Steve Jobs
Thank You!

Heidi Hanks
MS CCC-SLP

www.littlebeespeech.com • www.mommyspeechtherapy.com • Email: heidi@littlebeespeech.com