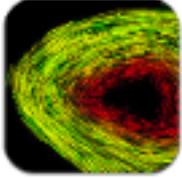


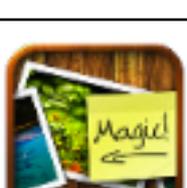
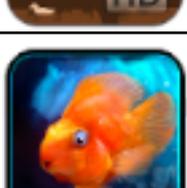
Visual stimulation apps for the iPad

These are apps which I often use with the data projector or on the iPad screen purely for visual stimulation, for getting the eyes working. I have chosen these apps because they are often high colour contrast, with either simple or complex moving imagery. Some are purely visual and some are interactive, in other words touch the screen and more will happen. Remember visual stimulation is about short sessions of looking. Take away any of the visual clutter and get the child or the student to concentrate on the iPad screen or the projector screen, which ever you are using.

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|  | <p>Cause and Effect Sensory Light Box Was created as an iPad app for a group of teenagers with complex needs including visual impairment, autism and developmental disabilities. Light Box has also proven popular with parents and teachers of much younger children with and without additional needs.</p> |
|  | <p>Cause and Effect Sensory Sound Box Is the second in a series of developmental touch skills apps created for teenagers with complex disabilities. Twelve very simple interactions, explore a range of musical scales, tones, pitch shifting sweeps and other interactive sound effects.</p> |
|  | <p>PixelSwarm This is a little like a big firework display on your iPad. By using your finger you can control the speed of the multicoloured trails of light. This makes it very useful for slow or fast tracking skills.</p> |
|  | <p>UZU Like pixelSwarm this is absolutely fascinating and you are likely to play with it for hours. This one looks gorgeous on a big screen.</p> |
|  | <p>Spawn Illuminati HD This is described as an art and fireworks light show. There is a lot of controllability and you really can make this do some incredible things.</p> |
|  | <p>Gravitarium Like Spawn Illuminati, this art and fireworks is a really beautiful app. To create movement you need to control the particles with your finger, which is really cool.</p> |
|  | <p>Haight Ashbury 3D Just imagine the image on the left spinning round at a variable speed, and that just about sums it up. However, to develop fixation skills for very short periods of time, maybe on a brolly, this could be amazing.</p> |

Relaxation apps for the iPad

Although many of these apps are aimed at relaxation, many of them would be fantastic to use in the classroom or a sensory room as a backdrop to a lesson or even a feature for a lesson. However, projected large onto walls in the multisensory room all of these apps come into their own. With the exception of nature space (which is purely sound), the films or still photography in the following apps is beautiful.

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|  | <p>Naturespace This is a fantastic app with headphones. It is sound only - shoreline, birds, rivers and more. Really nice for a background sound in storytelling.</p> |
|  | <p>Serenity This is one of the best relaxation apps. There are many scenes to choose from and you just swipe to get to the next one. As well as beach scenes & beautiful abstracts there are even kittens and puppies. What more could you want?</p> |
|  | <p>Gaze HD Beautiful Views There are quite a few in the gaze series of relaxation apps. The photography and film is very good. Gaze HD beach is also excellent.</p> |
|  | <p>Magic Window This app is a little like 'Gaze'. The featured scenes are sunset on the Pacific, fog and moonlight, and I downloaded New York skyline. This is quite clever as the scenes double up as an alarm clock for your iPad.</p> |
|  | <p>Magic pictures HD These are all photographic stills however extremely good photography and you can interact with the pictures themselves, which makes it more engaging for one-to-one work.</p> |
|  | <p>Journey HD A very nice animated journey down a magical river. This is probably one of the best apps to sit with children or adults and relax. You can sit for ages just watch this one go.</p> |
|  | <p>iQuarium This is one of the many fish tank apps that you can get for the iPad. But I particularly like this one because you can keep the background very very uncluttered. But should you want to you can interact with your fish and make it more complex.</p> |

Visual stimulation apps for the iPad...cont

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|  | <p>Cause and Effect Sensory Light Box Art in Motion is an art application based on the idea that art should evolve with technology. It's a great idea and it really works. I played for ages with this one whilst writing about it... great fun. The dark background really makes it nice for visual work.</p> |
|  | <p>Hot Lights The makers of this app encourage you to start up of lights, and occupy your fingers, and amaze your eyes, as you control 1000 glowing particles in a unique 3-D environment. What more can I say!</p> |
|  | <p>Heat Pad HD A very realistic simulation of various heat-sensitive surfaces reacting to the heat of your fingertips. This is one of those visual apps that the child or student can really control.</p> |
|  | <p>3D Shape Shifter 2 HD I like this at the visual stimulation because it has a totally black background and you can say with the size of the global book that you can see on the icon on the left. It also rotates which would get the brain interested in actually looking.</p> |
|  | <p>Laser Lights A fascinating visual app that uses the exellerometer in the iPad. The reviews for this app are terrible however I found it to be perfectly okay. Once again Best use through projector.</p> |
|  | <p>RFspotter RFspotter is a powerful new tool for preliminary assessments of the location and tuning properties of receptive fields (RFs) in the early visual pathway (retina, LGN, V1, V2, V4, MT). If you know what that means you should give it a try!</p> |
|  | <p>Eye Exerciser If you have the habit watching the one spot for a long time, the muscles of eyes will stiffen and then your eyesight will decline. The aim of Eye Exerciser is to stimulate the muscles of eyes and to make your eyes improving.</p> |

Education apps for the iPad

There are really too many education apps to the list here. However I have chosen some of the most fun and visually interesting apps, so that you can work with a wide range of abilities and hopefully keep their attention.

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|  | <p>March of the Dinosaurs March of the Dinosaurs is an interactive storybook that comes alive in your hands with 3D dinosaurs that spin and zoom at the touch of your fingers. This app to keep you going to quite a few terms</p> |
|  | <p>The Magic of Reality This is more of a book than an app but really quite interesting. If you're using it with more profound children or students you will need to work to make it multisensory.</p> |
|  | <p>Stonehenge Experience The makers recommend this as "an all-immersive, unbelievably rich guide to the historical landmark". And it's actually pretty good if you are covering Stonehenge in the curriculum. It is really quite an interactive experience.</p> |
|  | <p>Barefoot World Atlas An interactive 'Atlas' on the iPad. Even the music changes depending on where about in the world you are. It gives you a very good 'overview' of the whole of the planet but not much in-depth information. Used in a sensory way it could be great with our children.</p> |
|  | <p>Brian Cox's Wonders of the Universe Quite in-depth I'm quite complex however the visuals could be extremely good for mixed ability group as it shows a lot of stars brightly on a dark background. Would be really nice project in the multisensory room or onto an umbrella.</p> |
|  | <p>Bobo Explores Light A really interactive book about light. Great for projecting into sensory rooms and science. The developers say that the act is for ages between four and 12 years old. For early skills the imagery is bright and offers high colour contrast.</p> |
|  | <p>Skyview Free There are an incredible amount of star tracking apps. And they all do much the same however the word free is what drew me into this one.</p> |

Education apps for the iPad...

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|  | <p>Google Earth</p> <p>This is still one of the best ways for anybody to see planet Earth. If you are doing a particular subject with a class you can search for places for example Egypt with Google Earth and see it. It also has some brand-new 3-D imagery try searching for Rome Angels see the city in glorious three-dimensional pictures.</p> |
|  | <p>Dr. Frankenstein's Body Lab</p> <p>Make your way through five body systems to acquire the parts you'll need in the sixth and final game to build your very own monster. I have only had chance to try a couple of sections of this but it does look really good especially for an educational halloween.</p> |
|  | <p>Fractals</p> <p>Move and pinch and fractals in real-time! Explore Mandelbrot and Julia sets, select between multiple equations and enter your own values for Julia sets. If you're a mathematician and into 'fractals' this is amazing.</p> |
|  | <p>i-Mibac Voyager</p> <p>Don't put off by the title this is an incredible virtual reality walk around ancient Rome and it's free. There are also audio descriptions of different buildings. Free... it's worth a go.</p> |

So there is the completed 20 page list of apps for the iPad. I hope you enjoyed looking at them and agree that some of them could be useful for use in special education with children and adults.

If you have any suggestions about so we could use please get in touch with us here at Hirstwood training by using the email

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