APPLE iPAD APPS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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With the introduction of the iPad, applications (also known as "Apps") some extraordinary Apps have been developed, in particular Apps that can improve the daily lives of children with special needs. Many of these can be found in a Special Education Section of their official on-line store. The iPad itself is now being widely recognized as a valuable tool for assistive communication. Several websites are devoted to this topic, with recommendations for specific Apps.

Some popular websites to visit include:

1. **about.com**: which has a special needs Apps section and reviews.

2. **momswithapps.com**: This is another unique site, formed by family-friendly mobile app developers. Many members of this site have developed programs for Apple and the iTunes store.

3. **babieswithipads.com**: This site is geared primarily toward babies and toddlers in an effort to improve communication and cognitive skills.

4. **lilliespad.com**: Is a resource for the special needs community and has up-to-date information on special needs Apps for the iPad.

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In regard to specific Apps, I found the apps listed below particularly interesting and useful enough to share with you.

1. **Proloquo2go**: This is a well-respected assistive communication App for the iPad. This app has been specifically designed for autistic children, and is reportedly easy to install and navigate.

2. **iCommunicate**: This utilizes pictures and visuals to augment communication skills. This App comes with a pre-loaded library of pictures, which can be enhanced with Google images.

3. A free App called **iComm** is also available for the iPad and iPhone. A user can upload their own video and audio with this App, which is reportedly ideal for children with autism, cerebral palsy, and Down's syndrome.

4. **ArtikPix** includes child-friendly language and is an App designed for children with speech sound delays. It can also be used independently, with a specialist, or with parents.

5. **Grace** is designed for non-verbal people and can be customized by the user. This App allows a person to communicate by using visual imagery to construct sentences.

6. **Model Me Going Places**: Teaches the child to learn to navigate various community locations that may be challenging to special needs children. You have the ability to use photo slideshows that mimic the expected behavior.

These Apps and websites work to augment and assist communication for people with special needs. Children and non-verbal individuals may benefit immensely from this technology, while forming important social connections with their surroundings. Many of these Apps may in effect, if used the way they were designed to be used, can have some significant positive affects on the daily lives of special needs children.