

## Apps in Storytime

1. **AlienAssignment** *Created by:* the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College *Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPhone and iPad

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/alien-assignment/id531359578?mt=8>

*Age:* 4 year olds to 6 year olds

*Use:* This is a bit long, so it could replace a craft, music activity, or a book. During this game, you are asked to take pictures of specific types of items based on purpose, shape, or color. You may want the children to find the objects, but not take the pictures. To do this, you might also need some props handy in the storytime area.

2. **Lazoo Zoo**

*Created by:* Lazoo Worldwide, Inc. *Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPhone and iPad

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lazoo-zoo/id727786503?mt=8>

*Age:* 3 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* In this game, you feed the animals. Different animals do different things. The lion is the most interactive and educational, as he draws a picture of what he wants to eat and refuses to eat anything other than what is pictured. This forces the player to match the food in the box to the drawn picture of the food. The foods you can feed the animals do not reflect what each type of animal would actually eat. In fact, there are shoes and musical instruments to feed the animals. When using the app in a storytime, you could ask children if the given animal would actually eat a saxophone or an ice cream cone and what the animal might really eat.

3. **Lazoo Squiggles** *Created by:* Lazoo Worldwide, Inc. *Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPad

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lazoo-squiggles!/id498599631?mt=8>

*Age:* 2 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* The game asks you to draw squiggles and wavy lines to help the cars, rocket ships, fish, or other creatures or modes of transportation move around. You can select the drawing tool and color. Once you've drawn the appropriate type of line, select go and watch the items blast off, swim, fly, or drive away. This game is good for small muscle dexterity and would work well at home. If you wanted to use it in a program, you would need to have a lot of time for the children to come up and draw their individual lines.

4. **Bug Builder** *Created by:* Sago Mini *Cost:* \$2.99 *Available on:* iPad

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sago-mini-bug-builder/id657821775?mt=8>

*Age:* 3 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* To replace a craft activity. The game provides a bug outline that you can draw in. When you're done decorating your bug, the game give you food for it to eat, lets you wash its face, and then has you take a picture of it. Then the bug leaves an egg for you to create another bug out of. You get to crack the egg by tapping it.

5. **Mother Goose on the Loose** *Created by:* Software Smoothie *Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPad

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/felt-board-mother-geese-on/id734913054?mt=8>

*Age:* 1 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* For use in storytime, the app to create and tell electronic flannel board stories. It comes with the “felt” pieces to do a number of different nursery rhymes. You have to actively move the pieces around while you either sing or recite the rhyme on your own or play the song/rhyme using the iPad. This is a great way to make a really large flannel board.

**6. Animal Sounds – Fun Toddler Game** *Created by:* Innovative Mobile Apps/Alligator Apps  
*Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPad or iPhone

*Link:* <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/animal-sounds-fun-toddler/id445259736?mt=8>

*Age:* 1 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* In storytime this could replace a song, such as Old MacDonald or a longer activity, like a flannel board. It can be used as an animal sound reinforcement game or as a word learning game. You can play it many different ways: with the image and the sound only; with the word and the sound only; with the word, the image, and the sound; as flashcards, etc. Each type of animal has 2 images and 2 sounds the animal would make. You can repeat the same animal multiple times. The app has many different animals that you can select, from chickens to cicadas. You can also buy individual animal sounds if you want to add more. They cost \$0.99 per new sound.

**7. Peekaboo Vehicles HD Free** *Created by:* Touch & Learn *Cost:* Free *Available on:* iPad or iPhone & Android

*Download.com Link:* [http://download.cnet.com/Peekaboo-Vehicles-HD-Free/3000-20415\\_4-75831688.html](http://download.cnet.com/Peekaboo-Vehicles-HD-Free/3000-20415_4-75831688.html) (only the paid version is available on iTunes)

*Android Link:*

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.touchandlearn.peekaboovehicleslitegoogle&hl=en>

*Age:* 2 year olds to 5 year olds

*Use:* This is a sound guessing game. The app makes the sound of the vehicle, and when you tap the cloud the vehicle appears and the app says the name of the vehicle and displays the vehicle’s name below it. When you tap the vehicle, it drives away and another vehicle sound is played. Would be good in a transportation storytime or even one dedicated to a specific vehicle.

### **Resources for Good Apps:**

Little eLit: <http://littleelit.com/app-lists-reviews/apps-discussed-on-little-elit/>

Carissa’s App Picks: <http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/kids/apps>

Every Kid Ready to Read: Tech Tools for Early Literacy:

<https://www.techsoupforlibraries.org/events/every-kid-ready-to-read-tech-tools-for-early-literacy>

Darien Library: <http://www.darienlibrary.org/kids/apps-tech/5880>

Common Sense Media: <https://www.common Sense Media.org/app-reviews>

Digital Storytime: <http://digital-storytime.com/>

Lunchbox Reviews: <http://lunchboxreviews.com/>

SLJ Touch and Go: <http://blogs.slj.com/touchandgo/>