Apps Defnyddiol i gefnogi disgybl Nam Clyw
Useful Apps to Support a pupil with a Hearing Impairment

Apps for numeracy

These apps could help introduce young deaf children to numbers and maths in a simple, fun, and engaging way.

- **Special Numbers**

  Description: Activities include counting, matching, ordering, comparing and selecting, and the app's easy to use format is well suited to younger learners.

- **Maths, 3-5**

  Description: This is the first app as part of a series. It offers great graphics and clear verbal instructions for all its activities encouraging children to listen and follow simple instructions to complete each section.

  "This app is very easy to use, My 4 year old daughter competently navigated and used this app. The app has talking instructions which you can repeat if you haven't heard them properly. My daughter liked that each level was different. The app was challenging enough to keep her interested and not too hard that she would give up. The final section tests the child's ability to understand the subject matter. My daughter liked the reward chart style"

- **Maths, 4-6**

  Description: The second maths app in this series with a similar format to the first app but the activities are extended with different maths topics to match the age group.

Apps for literacy

These apps are designed to target literacy skills using a variety of approaches like games, songs, pictures and practice to introduce young children to early reading and writing skills.

- **Title: Collins Big Cat Playing Story Creator**

  Available on: iOS
  Description: Animated and interactive story book for children aged 4+, which can be personalised using your own narration. Designed to encourage the development of early reading and writing skills.

  "Good instructions. Easy to use but our daughter got a bit bored with this one. Don't think there was enough going on to grab her attention for long enough. Didn't play for long enough really to learn a great deal"

  "This app was very self-explanatory and all picture prompts were relevant. Very easy to use - my daughter grasped the concept and loved the story making function. She could help to create stories and listen to stories independently. She also loved that we could add our voices to the story. This will support her reading and was really good for getting her to use her imagination"

- **Title: Hairy Letters**

  Description: A fun interactive phonics app which supports the learning of letter sounds and shapes with

bright, colourful characters and animations. Letters are introduced in 6 colour-coded stages and the app features various games to make the learning more fun.

Title: Special Words

Description: uses matching games to help teach children written and spoken words. The app can be customised to your child's vocabulary using your own pictures, words and audio.

Apps for problem solving and working memory

These apps help promote the development of problem-solving skills, and offer games and activities which target working memory. Targeting these areas can be particularly beneficial for deaf children.

- **Title: Bugs and Buttons**

  Description: Features a series of entertaining and educational games and challenges to promote development of a range of early skills including fine motor control, problem solving, planning and counting. The app rewards completed games with 'achievement stamps' as an extra fun incentive.

- **Title: Children's Educational Lotto**

  Description: This is the first app in the series.This an educational game for children aged 1 years upwards.The game consists of 10 boards, each focused on different themes such as colours, animals, vehicles and more. The child has to match the cards presented on to each board. A great introductory app to matching and sorting.

  "There were no verbal instructions for the child. My daughter is 4 and didn't struggle to complete it, however the app is designed for children aged 1 plus. If she was much younger she would not have understood. There needs to be verbal instruction and perhaps prompts for children. My daughter liked the popping balloons at the end of the level. This was far too young for her and she got bored very quickly, however it would be good for younger children"

- **Title: Draw Stars**

  Description: A simple app for very young children. Introducing the idea of cause and effect. With one finger or a whole hand the child can make stars appear on the screen. Then simply shake the device and the stars disappear. A great way to introduce your child to using an iPad/tablet.

  "The instructions were easy to follow and the app was very easy to use. My child loved making pictures and watching the stars moving. She enjoyed practicing using fine motor skills and learning how to use the iPad."

- **Title: Jungle Adventure**

  Description: Jungle Adventure is bright and colourful and easy to use, and encourages simple problem solving development, with the opportunity for lots of discussion as the app is being played.

- **Title: Match and Find**

  Description: Designed to target the development of young children's memory, matching, searching and

sequencing skills. The app uses 6 simple activities to help improve both visual and auditory working memory.

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- **Title: Memory Pairs**

Description: A simple picture matching game which targets working memory, and offers a range of difficulty levels. The simple interface makes it easy to use for younger children, and the app can also be controlled using a switch, making it highly accessible.

- **Title: Monster Hunt - The Memory Game**

Description: Simple app for all ages aimed at developing attention, concentration and working memory skills. You are given a few seconds to memorise where the monsters are on a grid, and then find them again when the images disappear.

"The instructions were good. The apps is very easy to use and our daughter loved playing it. It was entertaining and had very good characters and colours. She got a bit distracted but that is because she is still young. She learned about touch and remembering where monsters were."

"Very easy to use - not much need for instruction. She liked the monster pictures and also that if she failed a level, it took her back to a level she could do. She wasn't able to get much further than 5 monsters, so without this function she would have stopped playing very quickly. The torch lifeline was also great for keeping her interested and pushing her further. This app was good for improving her memory and co-ordination skills"

- **Title: Sorting 1**

Description: Part of the series for age 2 years upwards. It consists of 12 different environments focused on a set of basic concepts from a child's world such as shapes, colours, seasons, and animals. The child has to move and match the items presented to the correct areas. A simple but fun app to develop early categorizing and hand eye co-ordination skills.

"Initially he loved it. He enjoyed making the choices and quickly learnt how to move the pieces to where he needed to. Whats really good is at the end of each 'chapter' there's a little reward screen which is a simple task like tapping fireworks or balloons. It's a bit repetitive though and after ten minutes he was bored. It's a good one to have in your phone for a few moments queuing for something."

Apps to help with listening
- **Title: Peekaboo HD**

Description: An app to help learn the sounds for farm animals. The animals are hidden behind bales of hay. You hear the noise, touch the screen and the animal is revealed.

"Instructions were easy to follow, but you can't go "back" to the beginning of the game in the app. Very easy for me to set up for my son and he quickly worked out what he needed to do. He liked the animals and tapping the screen. Some of the animal sounds are odd and don't sound like a typical animal. He already knows his animals but would be good for a younger child who was still learning them. He learnt to listen and respond to a noise before tapping the screen."

Apps for learning sign language

These apps feature British Sign Language (BSL) and are designed to help both parents and children learn and develop their BSL communication. A number of these apps are designed for very young deaf children learning their first signs, and these could be a really useful tool for you to use with your child at home.

- **Title: Baby Signing - 100 1st signs**

  Description: Features 100 early BSL signs to learn and practise with your child. Signs are shown using images and descriptive instructions. Includes regional BSL sign variations.

- **Title: Baby Sign and Learn**

  Description: uses animations and flashcards to help you teach your baby early signs. It can be personalised by adding your own photos, and you can test your own knowledge using the interactive quizzes.

- **Title: ITV Signed Stories**

  Description: A children's story app where all the books are signed, subtitled and narrated.

- **Title: Let's Sign- My First Signs**

  Description: My 1st Signs is an app designed to encourage sign and word recognition through various activities. The app features signs from the 'Let's Sign BSL Series', and includes over 150 words and over 200 corresponding signs, including common regional variations.

- **Title: Nursery Rhymes in Sign with Scarlett (iOS)/ BSL Kids Signed Songs (Android)**

  Available on: iOS, Android
  Description: Lets you sing and sign along with the presenter to a range of nursery rhymes.

Apps for interaction and role play

These fun apps feature a range of characters, sets and ways of interacting. They can be a great tool to use with young deaf children, to promote discussion and communication with parents, related to activities in the app. For example, apps such as these could be used to explore and talk about a range of themes, like routines at home or whilst out and about, and thinking about and communicating with others.

- **Title: Toca Tea Party**

  Description: A bright and colourful app in which children can host their own tea party using an iPad including setting the table, choosing your favourite cakes and doing the dishes. It's a fun and engaging way to encourage interaction and role play and can be used with parents, friends or even soft toys.

- **Title: My Playhome**

  Available on: iOS, Android, Windows
  Description: Interactive cartoon house app which allows users to interact with characters and objects in different rooms of the house- great for promoting discussions around objects and routines in the home.

- **Title: My Playhome Stores**

Available on: iOS, Android
Description: Interactive app in which your child can play and interact with characters and objects in a range of shops and scenarios.

- **Title: Nighty Night**

  Description: An animated story about farm animals. The animals are interactive and react when you touch them. One by one you put the animals to bed by turning out their lights and send them to sleep. Useful app for young deaf children who might be having difficulty sleeping or relaxing before bedtime.

- **Title: Pepi Bath**

  Description: Choose a character, clean their teeth, go to the toilet, have a bath or wash their dirty clothes. This app gives children the opportunity to explore the vocabulary and actions of everyday routines.

- **Title: Sock Puppets**

  Description: Choose your characters, background and props then create a sock puppet show. When you talk or make a sound the socks look as though they are talking. This is a great app for encouraging young children to use their voice, explore their imagination and even create a story with a friend/sibling.

  "Straightforward to follow but overly complicated set up - too many choices at the start and far too involved for a child of his age. Easy for me to use and understand but too involved for a 2 year old, so he rapidly lost interest. He couldn't work out what to do, even when told. I would struggle to see what the learning opportunity is. It's amusing and silly but not a learning tool"

Apps for 'information about me'

A range of apps exist which can help your deaf child express or collect a range of information about themselves, their emotions and their needs. For example, there are communication apps which may be of benefit to those who find it hard to express their emotions. There are also story-making and information gathering apps which could help you and your deaf child build a story or profile around them, either just as a fun activity or as related to their specific needs.

- **Title: All About Me Story Book**

  Description: This app allows you and your child to create a personalised story featuring your own pictures, words and audio recordings. Could be a great support tool for young children learning their personal information for the first time. The app allows multiple users, and the stories can be password-protected for security when it comes to this sensitive information.

- **Title: Early Support**

  Description: App which allows parents and carers of deaf children with additional needs to record and share a wide range of relevant information about their child, for example details of their medical appointments, care plans, or education. The app allows users to input a wide range of information to a simple and user-friendly format, making it easy to then access and share.

- **Title: Knock Knock Family**

  Description: For children to get to know names/faces of people in their immediate/extended family. Take

photos of people and get them to record them saying their names. Then the child has to knock on the door to reveal who is behind it.

"The instructions were easy to follow and it is a simple app and easy to use. It's a great app for little ones (maybe 2-4years). They liked seeing their family members behind the door and the simple matching task was easy enough for little hands. The kids didn't dislike anything but I struggled to get our microphone recordings to play as loud as the rest of the sounds so it sounded a little muted. It was a useful aid for teaching the names / signs of family members especially ones who don't live close enough to visit regularly."

- **Title: Baby Play Face**

Description: This app can help young children learn about the names of the parts of the face. It's an interactive way for them to explore the face of the baby on screen and then associate those with their own face.

- **Title: Tiny Tap**

Description: App which lets users make personalised interactive stories using their own photos, sound and text. This could be a great app to encourage talking about and remembering experiences, for example by creating stories from photos of a day out with the family.

"We didn't find this app easy to use as there are no prompts to help. There is also no help function. She did like to view completed stories and games. I don't feel the creative function of this app is aimed at young children however the concept is great for creating stories of your own."

Fun comic-making app which encourages collaboration and creativity

Name: FriendStrip Kid Pro
Developer: PhotoInPress
Cost: Free - In app purchases £
Available on: iOS, Android (Android tablet only)

Description:

- Comic strip app which lets users customize comic strip stories using their own photos and text
- Features a set of story templates, which appear like a comic strip, and users can then build up their own story
- Accessible and inclusive app for deaf children because it is based entirely on visual content
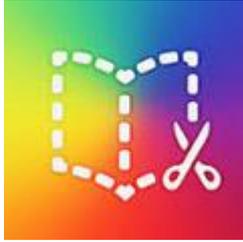- Great to use with friends during the holidays!

Storybook making app which could be used to talk about a holiday

Name: Book Creator for iPad
Developer: Red Jumper Studios
Cost: Free - Pro version £
Available on: iOS, Android and Windows

Description:

- App which lets you design, read and share books on an iPad
- Features template designs, into which you can add your own pictures, audio, text and drawings to completely personalise your story
- Accessible app for deaf children because it relies on text and visual content
- Could be used to make a story book of a family holiday!

Accessible movie-making app for deaf young people

Name: iMovie

Description:

- Designed for creating movies and trailers
- Allows users to easily add audio and visual effects, titles and transitions to their creations
- Great feature for deaf young people: If adding audio to projects, the app shows colour coded audio-waveforms for each clip used, allowing you to visually identify, organise and line up audio within scenes
- Could be a great tool for a fun half term film project!

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Communicating by text

There are many apps which allow users to communicate easily by text. These range from instant messaging services such as WhatsApp or i-Message, to apps which give access to social networking platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. These services offer an instant, free exchange of written messages (and much more) within a range of fun and interactive platforms, to help keep in touch with friends and family.

GroupMe

Description: Group Me is an app which allows users to have free group text chats with their Group Me contacts, using their device's Wi-Fi or 3G/4G connection. It requires you to sign up using your email address and phone number. Other users can then add you using these details. The app allows you to control the notifications you receive from the text chats, and lets you share links, GIFs, images and videos with other group members, as well as being able to save this content to view later. The app is available on tablets, smart phones and computers.

WhatsApp- Messenger app which lets users communicate by text

Description: An instant messenger app which allows users to send text messages, photos and videos to their contacts anywhere in the world, using 3G, 4G or Wi-Fi. This means that users can communicate with contacts for free when using the app with a Wi-Fi connection (for example at home). The app is available across all major operating systems which means contacts do not have to have the same make of smart phone as one another to be able to communicate using the app.

Communicating using video

Video chatting is a popular method of communication, and can be used in conjunction with text and audio, giving the option of BSL chats, lipreading during voice calls, or video and voice chats supported by simultaneous written messages.

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Skype

Description: This allows instant messaging, voice calls, video calls and video messages with other Skype users for free (over 3G/4G or Wi-Fi).
Video chatting can be beneficial for communication because it can allow you to make BSL calls and to see the person you are speaking to during audio calls. This makes remote communication much more accessible for a deaf user. Skype can be used on smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers and smart TVs, meaning two users with different types of device can still use Skype together.
The video message service can be used much like an answering machine, as Skype notifies you when you have a new video message, and this can be watched later and kept on your account.

By adding credit to your account, you can also send text messages and make voice and video calls to mobile phones or landlines.

Glide

Description: Glide is a video messaging app which allows users to record and instantly send videos up to five minutes long to their contacts. Contacts can watch videos live as they are being recorded, or watch them later as a message. Users can exchange messages 1 to 1, or set up group chats, and videos can also be shared to social media such as Facebook or Twitter. There are also a number of fun filters which can be applied to the videos. Glide is a great mainstream app for keeping in touch with friends, and particularly for BSL users who can quickly and simply exchange BSL video messages.

Google+ Hangouts

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Description: Google+ Hangouts allows users to send photos, use instant messaging, or make voice or video calls to other Hangouts users for free (over 3G/4G or Wi-Fi). Google+ Hangouts can be used on smart phones, tablets and computers. It allows users to have video chats with up to 10 others simultaneously.

Speak2See

Developer: Speak to See LLC
Cost: Free
Available on: iOS

Description: App which uses voice recognition technology to convert speech into large, easy to read text. The app lets users save and organise lists of questions and responses, making them very easy to find and access, and users can also use photographs on the app as additional support to the visual communication.

Let Me Hear Again

Developer: Let Me Hear Again Apps
Cost: Free/ £££
Available on: Android

Description: Let Me Hear Again gives access to four different tools which could be beneficial for deaf users for communication, note-taking and alerting purposes. The app features a 'face-to-face communication' tool, which uses speech to text technology to transcribe spoken language from over 70 different languages. Replies can also be typed into the app and then spoken out loud by the device, using text to speech software. The note-taking tool allows users to record longer stretches of speech, which are then transcribed and saved as notes within the app, and can also be shared. The 'guardian angel' tool acts as an alerting device and is designed to give a loud warning alarm and vibrate the device when loud sounds are detected in the environment. Finally, the alarm clock tool allows users to set alarms which sound at a high volume and vibrate the device for up to 2 minutes. The face-to-face communication and note-taking functions are available in the free version of the app, with the alerting and alarm functions unlocked in the paid ('Pro') version.

Apps to help with note-taking at school

These are apps which could help a deaf young person make notes and organise work in lessons at school, as well as voice recording apps which could be used to record lessons for playback later on. A particularly useful feature of some note-taking apps is the option to record audio and attach written notes to recordings. This could be really beneficial to a deaf student as the lesson and related notes can be accessed again together if anything was missed in the lesson.

Notability: Note-taking app which allows you to record audio and link this with notes or documents

Description: This note-taking app allows users to make and save notes in many different ways. Notability allows you to record audio (for example a lesson) and link this with notes or documents, which can be accessed later and played back together. Notes can be searched by title or content, and can be organised and stored within the app or backed up elsewhere. This could be a really useful app for a deaf student to have during lessons, as notes can be linked to specific points in the recording, which means users can easily go over the lesson with their notes at a later date, or review any particular sections that might have been unclear in the lesson itself.

REVIEW: Notability has been reviewed by Skye, who is 13 and reviews smartphone and tablet apps for us.

Evernote: App which lets you create notes, to do lists and reminders

Description: Evernote lets you create notebooks, take photos of handwritten notes and whiteboards, make 'to do' lists and create reminders. All content can be saved and searched, and notes can also be shared with friends using Facebook or Twitter.

Penultimate

Description: This note-taking app lets users make 'hand-written' notes on their iPad using a pen (a stylus). This could be really useful for those who prefer making notes with a pen rather than typing, because it not only makes note-taking easier but also means that hand-written notes can be stored and organised electronically. Penultimate is also designed to be used alongside Evernote, for even more note-taking options and functions. Aside from its note-taking role, Penultimate could also be a really handy app for those who sometimes rely on written communication.

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Easy Voice Recorder

Description: Easy Voice Recorder lets users record, save, share and play back sound. This could be a great tool to use at school if you feel that bits of the lesson are sometimes missed. You can use the app to record entire lessons, to be played again whenever you like. The 'Pro' version of the app allows you to record in stereo and to use a Bluetooth microphone, which could make the recording even clearer and more focused on the teacher.

Apps which feature accessible educational content

These are apps which feature talks and 'lessons' which may be interesting and useful for deaf young people at school. These mainstream apps feature subtitled content, making them very accessible for deaf users.

Khan Academy: App which gives access to videos featuring subtitled educational content

Description: The Khan Academy app gives access to over 10,000 videos and articles on a range of school subjects such as maths, science and history, with interactive exercises to test the user's progress. Videos are subtitled on the iPad version, and users can scroll through subtitles to start videos where they like. Whilst not intended as a comprehensive guide to entire topics or subjects, the videos featured within the app can be very interesting and informative and are relevant to a range of topics.

TED: App which gives access to subtitled talks and lectures

Description: TED gives access to talks and lectures on a huge range of subjects, with subtitles available in over 90 different languages. Talks can be searched by theme, speaker or language, and users can share talks with others. The range of topics is extensive, and although talks aren't intended to be linked to any school curriculum, they are interesting and informative and can be a great way to learn about a diverse range of topics. Depending on the subject, talks can be quite complex, so the app might be better suited to older users.

Apps which help with revision

There are many apps which could be used to help with revision for specific topics, or to help work on memory skills and exam skills more generally. The way each individual likes to learn is different, so it might be useful to try different revision apps out to find the one that works best for you.

Brainscape

Description: Designed to make learning and revision faster and more efficient. It works by letting users create flashcards for their chosen topic (based on their own content), and then tests them on that topic to find out which parts might already be known and which information needs to be targeted. The app then uses the information about how well the topic is known to present the flashcards in a 'smart' way, based on the strong and weak points to do with that topic. The app comes with some free topics with pre-designed flashcards, or students and teachers can make their own and share them with other Brainscape users.

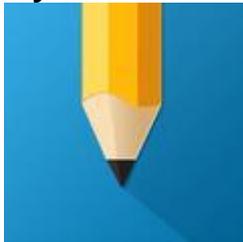## Apps to support your child's organisation at school

There are a number of apps designed to help young people with the organisation of their day and lessons at school. These apps feature timetables and schedules, and can give reminder notifications for lessons and homework. These apps have clear organisational benefits for all students, with features such as vibrating alerts.

My Class Schedule- Timetable: App which lets you create a visual timetable for school

Description: This app allows users to set reminders for lessons, exams and homework and create a colour-coded lesson schedule which can be easily accessed on a mobile device. Users can set notifications on the app so that their mobile device flashes or vibrates to remind them of upcoming lessons, and the app can also be set to automatically mute the smartphone it is running from when a lesson begins.

My Homework- Student Planner

Description: My Homework is a great organisational app for school. The app lets you record all sorts of information about school work and homework, like what lessons and homework you have coming up, including setting reminders, and what work you've completed and what's overdue.