Westchester Library Association Annual Conference
The Inclusive Library: Accommodating Learning Differences
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Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

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Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

app

ap/

noun: **app**; plural noun: **apps**

a self-contained program or piece of software designed to fulfill a particular purpose; an application, especially as downloaded by a user to a mobile device.

"Apparently, there are these new apps that will actually read your emails to you!"

Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

Common Platforms

- Apple ipads
- B&N Nook
- Amazon Kindle Fire
- Android tablets
    - Samsung Galaxy
    - Google Nexus

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What makes a good app?

- Age appropriateness
- Interactive
- Variety of activities
- Runs smoothly (no glitches)
- Novelty – should be fun to use again & again, not just the 1st time

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How do I find out about them?

- School Library Journal
- Kirkus
- Common Sense Media
- Digital Storytime
- Children's Technology Review
- Ask your WLA colleagues!

Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

How do I choose?

- Price isn't always an indicator of quality
- Free apps can be great, but be aware of ads
- Read USER reviews
- Watch YouTube clips to see apps in action

Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

READING & WRITING:
Look for good record keeping, lots of levels and varied approaches, and excellent "fun factor".

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GREAT STORY APPS:

Look for quality illustration and texts, with clickables that add to the story without distracting readers. Read-aloud, text highlighting and record-your-own-narration features add value.

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SPECIAL NEEDS:

Use professional journals and trusted websites to find doctor/therapist approved apps. Simplicity and intuitive play are key.

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LANGUAGE APPS:

Most language apps rely on daily repetition to be effective. Look for apps that have a website component so your patrons can practice at home too.

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MATH & SCIENCE:

Apps are ideal for teaching basic concepts through manipulative games. Look for games that start simple and have room for growth for your more advanced gamers.

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CREATIVITY:

Look for autonomy. Children should be in control of what they create – not simply completing tasks. Focus on apps that give a wide variety of options rather than saving lots of work.

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Think Outside the Box: TWITTER

- Having a limit of 140 characters per tweet means that it doesn't take long to read, but interesting tweets – longer articles or blogs, -- interesting books.
- laugh, keep you informed about the latest scientific breakthroughs, and give you something to think about.

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COMICS

- Comics...great way to start reading.
- short
- well illustrated
- make you laugh.
- start with the comic strips graduate to the books.
- Reading can be frustrating to a reluctant reader, but the joy you get from reading the comics makes it worth the struggle.

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TRANSMEDIA

Transmedia storytelling is done through different media, each of them making distinct contributions to the viewer/user/player's understanding of the story world. By using different media, different "entry points" are created for young people to become immersed in a story world.

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YALSA TEEN BOOKFINDER APP

Great Literacy and Reading Apps for Youth (Youth Services)

YALSA TEEN BOOKFINDER APP

- App features include:
- a homepage featuring three titles from the database, refreshed each day
- the ability to search for books by author, title, award/list year, genre, by award, and by booklist
- a Find It! button, powered by the [OCLC WorldCat Search API, that will show users where to find the book in a nearby library](#)
- a Favorites button, to create an individualized booklist
- the ability to share books from the Teen Book Finder on Twitter and Facebook
- An Android version of the app is planned for later in 2014.

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