

iPods, iPhones, iPads, iHeadache!



In this second instalment of 'iTods and iPods' I want to briefly talk about some of the advancements that have occurred in the past 12 months. Some of these relate to new software that is now available, new devices that have entered the market, as well as a broader range of examples of schools using these devices in the provision of educational services to students.

Biggest change

Perhaps the most obvious change that has occurred in the past 12 months has been the launch of a new larger device in Apple's product range called the iPad. In short, the iPad is basically an ipod touch that has taken growth hormones. There are some differences such as the ability to access the internet via mobile carrier network. (Some have called the iPad the 'overgrown love-child' of the iphone and ipod touch!).

Most of the existing apps that have been available for the ipod/iphone will work with the iPad. In addition to this, developers have been very busy writing dedicated apps for the iPad to make use of the larger screen size and other capabilities. The iPad offers teachers who work with small groups or in one to one teaching an excellent tool. If your students liked your iphone - they are going to fall in love with your iPad.

I have included a list of websites on following page for further information regarding the iPad and how it could be used in education. For now, lets look at some new apps.

Soundtouch. This nice little app is a simple picture and sound playback program that is useful for training children to match sounds to images. You can choose from six different categories (such as small animals, large animals, vehicles, musical instruments etc) and then from 12 different images/sounds. When you choose from one of the cartoon icons - the corresponding sound that this animal, for example, makes is audible. While the sound is playing, a high quality photo of the sound source is displayed on the screen. An excellent auditory training tool for the younger students.



'TuneIn Radio'. This allows you to listen to radio broadcasts live from all over the world. Most major radio stations now stream their programs over the internet in real-time. As long as you have an internet connection (wifi or mobile data) you can listen to live radio and record programs direct to your device. I use the record feature to record snippets of programs that I then ask student to listen to and tell me what the conversation was about.



All of the apps mentioned are available from the itunes 'app store'. You can access from your mac/PC via itunes or purchase & download direct from your iPod touch/iPhone/iPad.

SoundTouch	\$2.49
TuneIn Radio	\$2.49
SLP MAP	\$36.99
Sunny Articulation Test	\$36.99

Certainly, you would need to use judgement to ensure that the content is appropriate for the age of the student as well as ensuring that such a listening task is not impossible for your student. It is a quick and easy way of grabbing high quality talking samples to allow students to practise listening to pre-recorded voice with no visual input at all. How you could use such a program is purely limited by the teacher's imagination!

I want to mention a group of apps created by [Smarty Ears](#) for, predominantly Speech Therapists (and us lowly teachers as well). I say a group of apps as there are at last count 13 different apps that have been created by this group. I have two of them - **SLP Mobile Articulation Probe** & **Sunny Articulation Test**. Both of these are about \$36 each but are well worth the cost.

Both of these apps would warrant an entire page or two on their own, so I will simply direct you to the links at the end of this paper to find out more information. The app's creator has an excellent range of web pages and [YouTube](#) channels where she talks about different apps and how you can use them.

SLP Mobile Articulation Probe is a little like having ALL of your flash cards in one pile for articulation lessons. More than this, it allows you to access flash cards based on the specific needs of your student AND keep track of their progress in terms of articulating words. For example, you can set up different students with different needs. Student 'A' might need to practice a specific phoneme in Final position. The app then displays a series of pictures with that stimulus criteria. Student 'B' may need assistance with a specific phonological process in the initial position. There are 930 images stored on your device.

The second app from the same creator is **The Sunny Articulation Test**. This is an articulation screening app that allows the user to test the articulation skills of students. It tests all phonemes in the English language including clusters. It is in American English so needs to be used with caution in some cases. Once screener is completed, you are given a detailed report on the results showing information such as manner, phoneme, position, voicing and error type. It is also possible to record the audio of the child as they take the test as well as add notes during test.



Picture Left: Screen-shots from SLP Mobile Articulation Probe

Picture Below: Screen-shots from The Sunny Articulation Test



Knowledge...

Over the past twelve months there has been a great amount of material being made available both in print and more predominantly on the internet regarding educational usage of iPods & iPads in the classroom. There are many examples of projects from around the world which involve school or college-wide implementation of the technology that we have discussed. These devices are being used across **all** Key Learning Areas and **all** age groupings—from kindergarten right through to university campuses. I have attempted to list a few of these here. Anybody that would like further examples online should 'google it', or failing that, email me and I will point you in the right direction.

[The iPad Project - Trinity Lutheran College](#)
[iPhone/iPod Touch Classroom Applications](#)
[Apple Australia Website](#)
[Freed-Hardeman University iKnow Initiative](#)
[App Shopper Education](#)
[Parentcentral.ca article on ipads in schools](#)

[Apple US Mobile Education Page](#)
[Smarty Ears App Developer Page](#)
[Geek SLP Blog Page](#)
[From the Coal Face: iPod Touch in the Classroom](#)
[The iPod Touch Classroom](#)
[Personalising Learning with the iPod Touch—Links](#)