Suggested Apps and Games For 11-14 YEARS

Learning

EVERNOTE

If keeping track of things like homework, links, images or basically anything is an issue, then Evernote could be your new best friend. While not strictly a learning app, Evernote does make organising learning so much easier. Used by both professionals and students, this app helps facilitate keeping on top of executive functioning skills, with online planners and notebooks made available across all your devices and computers. With over 1.5 million downloads, Evernote is one of the most popular organisational apps in the world, and is free to download on iOS, Android and the Amazon Store.

DRAGONBOX

DragonBox isn't one singular app, but a series of educational and learning games designed to teach the fundamentals of Mathematics. There are 5 apps in total for learning Algebra, Geometry, Numbers, Big Numbers and Elements. Each app contains a number of mini-games to get kids thinking about getting a head start on the daunting numerical subject, backed by bright and charming visuals. Each app comes in at between £3.99 and £5.99 on iOS and Android making it one of the more pricier investments. However, once you've paid the upfront cost, the entire app is unlocked and free to explore. It should also be pointed out that because most of the DragonBox collection is recommended for children between 6 and 12 year's old, older kids with a decent grasp on Maths might find this a little beneath their skill level.

NSF SCIENCE ZONE

Apps about our world don't come much more official than being created by the National Science Foundation, which is exactly where NSF Science Zone comes in. Featuring a wide array of videos and high-resolution pictures focusing on everything from the far reaches of space to the microscopic organisms that inhabit our planet and everything in between, this is perfect for anybody curious about nature and the world. The app is 100% free on iOS and Android and would be perfect as a visual encyclopedia for anybody doing any science related study. All the information on the Science Zone app has been provided by scientists and universities around the globe so you can be confident of it being the highest possible standard to teach your young ones.

GUITAR COACH CHORDS TUNER TABS

Learning instruments like the guitar has never been simpler thanks to all the modern technology at our fingertips. Learning visually can often be the difference between giving up and persevering to acquire a truly sought-after skill. HD videos, animated fretboards, chord diagrams and more make this app a one stop shop for getting to grips with the basics. Guitar Coach Chords Tuner Tabs is available for a free trial or monthly subscription for unlimited access on both iOS and Android, essentially acting as a pocket tutor for the stringed instrument. If time and money are a factor in taking the plunge into learning guitar, it makes sense that an app like this can help start you on the right path.

DUOLINGO

What's better than mastering one language? Mastering all the languages! DuoLingo is world renowned for being able to teach anybody a new language with its fun and easy to use app. Ideal for kids picking up a second language at school, DuoLingo offers a variety of languages including French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Irish and more, all for free. You simply choose which language you want to learn, what kind of commitment you can give per day and away you go. The best part about DuoLingo is that it is completely free to download and use and will even send you helpful notification reminders when it's time to learn some new words and phrases. It should be pointed out that there are some in-app purchases, but they're strictly optional and transparent throughout, so no sneaky accidental payments can be made.

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Just for Fun

TERRARIA

Much like Minecraft, Terraria has a focus on building and creating anything kids can put their imagination to. Whether they're digging into the earth to seek out treasures, or creating their own kingdoms out of stone, however your young ones like to play, there's guaranteed to be something to keep them busy for hours on end. There are a couple of slight caveats with Terraria though. As the game is so big, it does require more modern (2014 or up) devices to play on. There's also the cost which stands at £4.59 on Android and £4.99 on iOS devices. Arguably though, the game is worth its weight in gold when it comes to creating an engaging world to lose yourself in. It even has multiplayer for up to 7 friends over local wi-fi or online. If that doesn't seal it, nothing will!

THE ROOM THREE

The Room games are all about critical thinking and puzzle solving, offset by a rich atmosphere that has been prevalent throughout the series. The Room Three is the latest in the mobile favourite apps and offers up a uniquely challenging experience for those wishing to flex their logical muscles. The BAFTA award winning series hits its peak with the third entry feeling more like a full-blown adventure game than a mere mobile app. The Room Three is available on iOS and Android for £3.99 and would be well suited to older kids looking for a more challenging game. Be aware though that while the rating is PEGI 7, younger audiences might find the eerie themes a little unsettling. If this sounds like something you or a loved one might enjoy, the whole series of Room games offer much the same experience so there's plenty to get stuck into.

THOMAS WAS ALONE

Thomas is a curious triangle. His curiosity is satisfied simply by exploring his intriguing world and tackling the 100 award winning levels of puzzle solving, head on. Kids can guide Thomas around his world by jumping, and making friends, while the BAFTA award winning game also comes with an enchanting story narrated by comedian and writer Danny Wallace. Perhaps the best things about Thomas Was Alone are its simple control scheme allowing it to be picked up and played by almost anybody, and the fact that it's available on a wide variety of consoles and devices including iOS, Android, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. Prices vary though, so be sure to check it out on your preferred medium.

THE SIMS FREEPLAY

Create your Sim and help them live their life the way you want in The Sims FreePlay. Based on the wildly popular games, this mobile version brings all the fun of The Sims into the palm of your hands, while losing none of the charm of the originals. As anybody who's ever played a Sims game will tell you, hours melt into minutes once you start playing this lifestyle simulator and with good reason - it's incredibly addictive fun. While the game is, as the name suggests, free to play on iOS, Android and Amazon, please be aware that in-app purchases can be made of up to £99.99 so it's essential you keep an eye on whoever is playing and set strict boundaries if necessary. Over 10 million downloads of this game can't be wrong though - The Sims is back, and it's better than ever.

HEADS UP!

Heads Up! is an incredibly fun game that the whole family can play together. The basic premise is that one person holds the phone to their forehead with a character, place, object, etc on screen and tries to guess it from the clues the rest of the players give them. There's a whole host of categories to choose from so it never gets dull and there's even the option to record the other players trying to give clues, so you can watch it back later for more laughs. Rated PEGI 3, it's suitable for pretty much everyone but can really help hone quick thinking and reaction times in more developed kids. The game comes in at 99p on iOS and free on Android devices but does offer in-app purchases from between 58p and £9.49 per item for things like extra categories.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

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