



Edition Eight

'Special Apps for Very Special Learners'

November 2021

Flo Longhorn

The Apps lists for May, June, September and November/December 2020, January/February, May/June and September 2021 are still available. For a copy, send an e-mail to: flopml@gmail.com.



Also available from the website:

www.sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home



Hello from Bredene, Belgium!

Here is Edition 8, full of apps for very special 'appers and also information about the latest materials/events and items of interest from the UK.

It looks like COVID is still hovering around and here in Belgium again (November 2021) we have 'emergency measures' for three months. So, I do hope that wherever you are you are still able, in some form or other, to continue your amazing work with amazing children, young people and adults.

Best sensory wishes,
Flo

"Promise me you'll always remember: you're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think."





Announcing a splendid new booklet all about timetabling for very special learners!

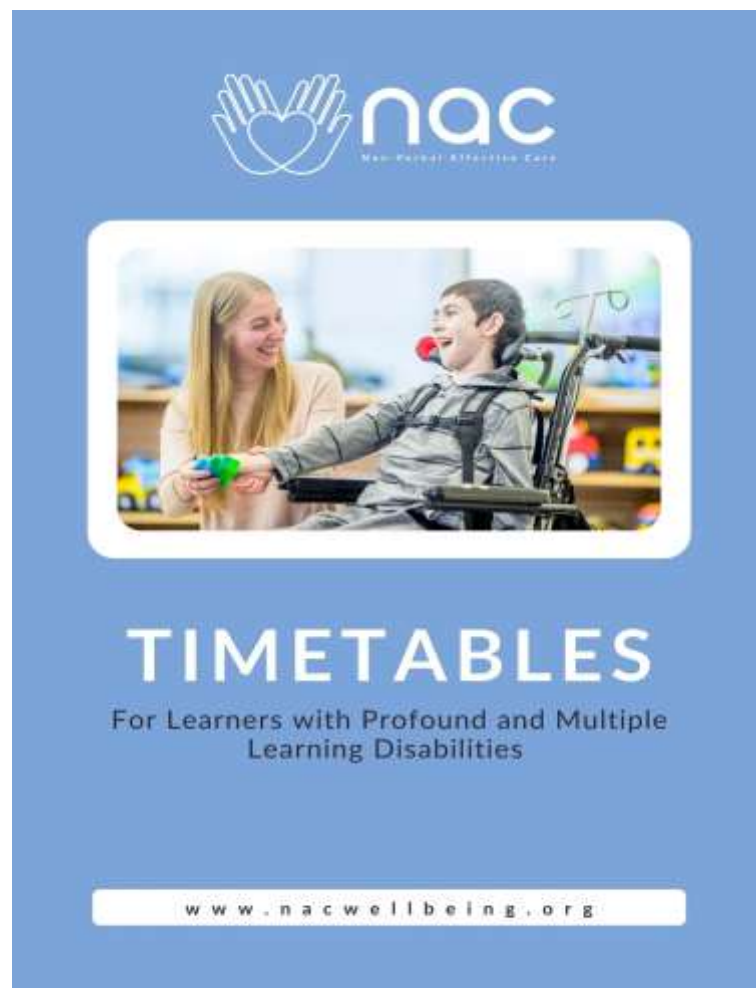


This amazing booklet is a joint effort written by:

- * Dr Julie Calveley (NAC founder director, learning disability nurse)
- * Dr Lila Kosyvaki (Birmingham University)
- * Karam Bhogal (NAC & deputy head, special needs school)
- * Flo Longhorn (unretired consultant in special & multisensory education)
- * Leighanne Healey (PMLD lecturer / Med student)

Thanks to **NAC**, the booklet is **FREE** and will be published in **December!**

Check their website! www.nacwellbeing.org





This symbol flags use of 'baby' or 'toddler' in the app description - the app can be person-appropriate not age-appropriate. Ignore the word, it's okay!

Welsh app free at the Apple store!



This app is really not for very special 'appers except is in Welsh, which may surround those living in Wales. It is so unusual to find such an item. Take note Welsh readers! Gorsaf Dan Ffion.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/gorsaf-dan-ffion/id96445061>

<https://baixarapk.gratis/en/app/964450614/gorsaf-dan-ffion>



Speed Tapping Game (Free) - tap, pointy finger, relaxation (for some!).

Very simple, just tap and tap and tap for 30 seconds. The switch changes a bright colour as you tap. There is a clear click at every tap. Tap on!

App Store - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/speed-tapping-game/id362001861>

Android - <https://apkpure.com/speed-tapping-tap-fast/com.riseuplabs.SpeedTapping>

And another tapping, ticking app below!

Using Metronomes

When the metronome app is used, it is interesting to see what happens to the group nearby to see if activity is faster/slower as all the ears pick up the sound. I used a real metronome (before the advent of apps) with a very special woman who self-harmed by hitting her head with regular blows. When I sat on the floor with her and set the metronome to a slow beat, after a while she would stop hitting her head and nodded with the sound. This took many months of seeing if it would work with her. When she did start to nod instead of hit, I also nodded in solidarity - my head really ached after a while!

As she liked to hear a beat, then, when music was used, the bass was switched on full blast so she would nod to the vibratory bass beat.



Metronome Free (Horizon Business Inc.) - tick, tock, reduce/increase energy levels.

Easy to use metronome. Select the time signature and background in the setting. Then drag the metronome weight to set the number of beats per second. The image is visually very clear and backgrounds to suit the viewer.

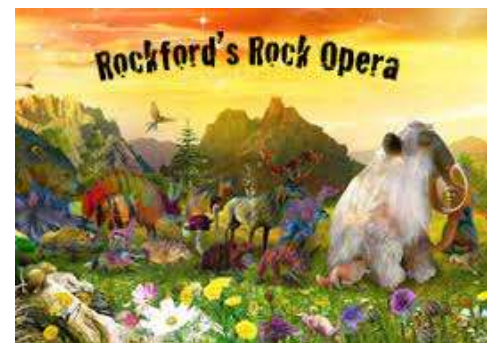
Android - <https://www.mwallpapers.com/apps/ios-music/660178047>

Apple store - <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/metronome/id660178047>



Rockford's Rock Opera (Free) - modern storytelling, musical, sound effects, ecology.

A very modern story book with 3D effects, excellent graphics and an ecological story for everyone. It would be great for an inclusive app to suit everyone.



World Wildlife Fund says: 'A thought provoking and heart-warming story that not only provides wonderful music but also highlights environmental issues in an engaging way'.



Below is the theme tune for the opera, click on the link below - found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW0IC6BU5a8>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/rockfords-rock-opera-book/id1439058074>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=co.uk.sweetapple.RROReadAlong&hl=en&gl=US>



Ratatap Drums (Free) - drums, beat, trendy for students, instrument playing, music.

Excellent drum and cymbal sounds requiring just a swipe or focussed finger to create booming noises - sorry! - music!

App Store -

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ratatap-drums-free/id428149234>



How to download it for Android:

<https://apptricker.in/download-ratatap-drums-free-app-for-ios-android-phones-how-to/>



Fluid 2 (Free, in-app purchases) relaxation, calming music, water effect.

This app just needs a swish of fingers to ripple the water and see the stones underneath. There is a soothing 'oooo' voice and light music as the water ripples. Five fingers on the screen brings up the option list and you can:

- change the water speed,
- the colour,
- switch the music off,
- change the background.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fluid-2/id317959717>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=games.paveldogreat.fluidsimfree&hl=en&gl=US>



I Hear You - Sign Language (Free) - translates signing into voice/text!

This is only on Android so I cannot try the app myself, but it is worth flagging up. It is supposed to translate sign language into voice or text. This sounds incredible (if it works)! Please send some feedback to me if you try it out! (Everyone has their own personal way of signing, so how does it do this?)

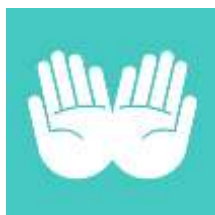
This is the blurb: "... An Award-Winning mobile application designed with smart technology to translate sign language into speech or text - and vice versa. It aims to break the barriers between those who use sign language [deaf/sign language

interpreters] and those who don't, to create an inclusive human community where everyone can be HEARD."

(Not on the Apple App Store, which is interesting, as they are usually keen to help with such a useful app for inclusion).

Available for Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ihearyou.signlanguage&hl=en&gl=US>



Story Sign (Free) - reading books with app to translate into signing.

This is an impressive app that accompanies the book as it is read. The books are all popular titles such as 'Spot' and 'Max the Brave'. The sign language can be chosen from a long list of countries. The signer is below, very personable!



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/storysign/id1479829238>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/storysign/id1479829238>



Airharp (Free) - musical instrument, swipe.

A very simple instrument with a pleasing harp sound. Just swipe and listen.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/air-harp/id364524199>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/air-harp/id364524199>

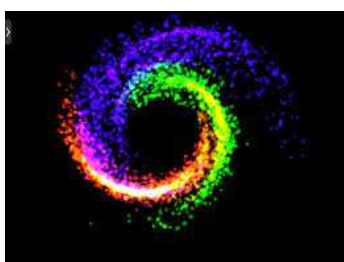


Magic Zither (Free) - instrumental play, Chinese fun.

This is the best app for me, disconcertingly mad and intriguing to play. Drift fingers across the traditional Chinese background and listen to gentle zither noises. As you tap or drag, little soft bubbles of colour drift from your fingers or randomly appear. Press a Chinese symbol and up pops 'Edelweiss' or the 'Song of the Plum' if you are lucky! Some one-line poetry appears too. You can login or as they translate "You hasn't login".

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/magic-zither/id399338194>

<https://www.amazon.com/成都云创新科技有限公司-Magic-Zither/dp/B00AHQV2UY>



Go Particles (Free, in-app purchases) - relax, immersive experience, drag.

Rather nice effects, there is a screen full of teeny stars or butterflies, drag a finger through for changing visual colours and movement. Plus click on the top of the screen for an owl/tiger face to appear under the drifting tiny effects. There is relaxing music - not too bad.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/go-particles/id1010351471>

<https://www.mwallpapers.com/apps/entertainment/1010351471/download>



Dropophone (Free) - music sounds, tap.

This is a classic app with good sounds and a pointy finger will light up each drop as the sound reverberates.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/dropophone/id376771022>

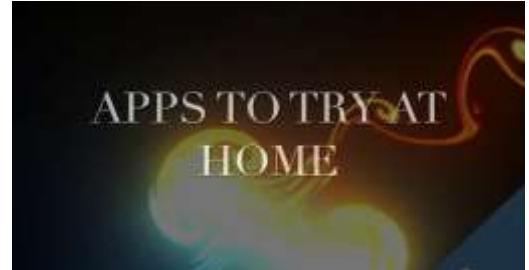
<https://www.mwallpapers.com/apps/ios-music/376771022>



Magic Fluids Lite (**Free** - in-app purchases).

This is one of many fluid apps but very bright swirls. Watch the video clip, it has a lovely genuine male voice by Luke telling you all about it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ny4utnBa5s>



<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/magic-fluids-lite/id1437514764>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.magicfluids.demo&hl=en_GB&gl=US

Sensory Goo (**Free**) - art, Microsoft, visual tracking.



Really good effects, as usual with Sensory App House. Swipe or trailing a line with a finger across the screen creates falling, almost 3D shapes in bright colours. There are 8 different modes - terrific! Also works with Xbox controller and Microsoft adaptive controller - splendid.

Here is the blurb for all the effects:

1. Bubble colour changes for each new line draw.
2. Bubble colour change is on a timer.
3. Creations bounce around the tank.
4. Fast bubble drawing with a shimmer effect.
5. Choose your colours from the palette.
6. Choose your colours from the palette and draw with symmetry.
7. Choose your colours from the palette and draw with symmetry, fixed shapes, bouncing shapes and flow. Change the flow speed and the line width.
8. Full mode - Choose your colours from the palette and draw with symmetry, fixed shapes, bouncing shapes, flow, full bubbles and eraser. Change the flow speed and the line width.



Watch a brief YouTube video of the effects:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-W8YFTSXn8>

<https://apps.apple.com/uk/app/sensory-goo/id1562509584>

Newly developed apps from *Sensory House Apps* include a new, simple, interactive set of games. Explore them and see what you think... a great website below:



<https://www.sensoryappphouse.com>

High Contrast Eye Tracking Show

This is not an app, but has excellent images of huge, chubby, striped caterpillars in a sequence lasting over half an hour. I would use this on a white board, tilted towards the viewer if possible. Black background and endless movements which vary according to the speed of the background music. The caterpillar faces are large and smiley, and they go through a range of movements including in /out zooming.

Baby Sensory Caterpillar's Garden. High Contrast Eye Tracking for Babies



Watch the Video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfEehBLSGvQ>



Play Djembe (Free) - African drum, rhythm, music.

A very simple app with a clear, yellow, round drum top on which tap and play a good drum sound.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/djembe/id480770201>

(Not found for Android)



Cat Alone and Cat Alone 2 (Free - in-app purchases)
- fun, fun! Fun! Tracking, insects.

This is for catty human beings! Very realistic insects, fish and other objects to track. Clear images and simple, clear sounds. Much better than balls or stars!

This is one of my favourites!



Video on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSBvFIHcOZO>



https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.galbro.cataloneandroid&hl=en_GB&gl=US

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cat-alone-cat-toy/id645859885>

Xbox Adaptive Controller

The Xbox controller, used throughout the world, now includes all our very special learners, as it will put control into any app. It offers such potential for all.

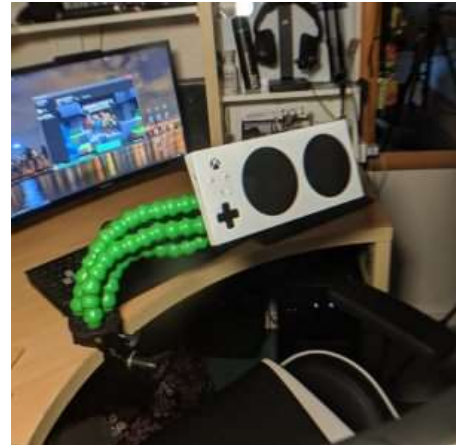
Watch the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9f6iJwk4Pg>



Adapted Xbox Controller - made by a very clever dad!

Click on the web link below for the video.

<https://hackaday.com/2018/11/21/dads-custom-xbox-adaptive-controller-build-for-his-child/>



REHAdapt - The world's leading manufacturer of mounting assistive technology.

<https://www.merushop.org/product-category/holding-and-positioning/>

Liquid Vibrations



Have a peep at some very unusual water therapy, 'Liquid Vibrations', which is used in some schools in the UK. The therapy is set in a pool, accompanied by tranquil music to:

- Relax body and mind,
- Stretching and movement,
- Encourages wellbeing,
- Enables enjoyment,
- Expands an understanding of sound.



The website has videos showing a session with water and sound plus lights. Fascinating!

<https://www.liquidvibrations.org.uk>



Other information:

<https://www.liquidvibrations.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2AI4-eExgINa4a2zrEwQuv6vVkrBNIHDheCRH1LrLOmUySCdYrRd5jQgk>

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/570054366?h=77b5d0c3a3>



Innersense (Free) - drama in many shapes and forms.

Innersense is an amazing drama resource with very good resources and ideas. It covers practical arts, including very special learners, and engages people of all ages and abilities. The team comprises artists and actors from the drama /art world. It covers useful items such as props for a drama, activities within a drama and scripts.

The workshops cover a good range of topics including Macbeth, a bush ranger, Nautilus, starry night, temping in Tokyo, gold mine, American Gothic, Buddhist monk and more. There are videos showing their own productions which are very useful.

They have an app or go to their website for more information - innersense.org.uk.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/innersense/id1256367486?ign-mpt=uo%3D2>
(Android not found)



Special Pages for Very Special Teenagers/Adults

Norwich City College (UK) has produced a video showing the facilities available for courses on offer to young people aged 16-25 who may have moderate to severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders, emotional and behavioural difficulties or communication difficulties.



What assessment/tests are required to attend?

There is no formal assessment on this programme. Students will have their progress towards individual targets continuously assessed and reviewed. Reviews with students and their parents/carers take place throughout the year. Progression is tracked through target setting and an assessment of functional living skills.

Below is the video found on YouTube - click on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXCnGxtM_dM

Pathway to Adult Life



I hope very special learners can attend too!

Unlocked Art in a Closed World



Have a look at this very impressive professional on-line art gallery containing remarkable art. If these extra-special artists can produce art like this, it equals David Hockney's iPad art!

<https://www.artsteps.com/view/60817139d6efe0c44833ba6e?fbclid=IwAR1jOgIH66z53GjljnyCPEBkZuWvoeye3NnDHmr4Zq-bNhgK2I4V63t1sf0>

Sponsored by Somerset Community Foundation - well done, brilliant!





Why can't I have a teddy? The argument for age respectful interactions

by Rachael Webster, 12 October 2021

Here is a great article found on Word Press. This covers my favourite topic which is - what on earth has 'age appropriate' to do with any human being?

The writer is Rachael Webster (excellent work, a gold star! - the Editor) and she comes under the banner of

**Nottingham
Institute of Education**



To access the article, click the link below:

<https://nottinghaminstituteofeducation.wordpress.com/2021/10/12/why-cant-i-have-a-teddy-the-argument-for-age-respectful-interactions/?fbclid=IwAR0ZjnPF3x7Lqug6geHfcOitxYmDYSZv9MVj1AalgzgjzWXk9-uJ4UxN1Zg>

... and here am I on my new tricycle! **Three wheels rule, OK!**



Enhancing Wellbeing and Independence for Young People with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

ROUTLEDGE

Lives Lived Well

Andrew Colley and Julie Tilbury
with Simon Yates



September 2021: 6.14 x 9.21: 226pp

24 illustrations

Hb: 978-0-367-56415-5 | £120.00 £96.00

Pb: 978-0-367-56406-3 | £27.99 £22.39

eBook: 978-1-003-09764-8

Enhancing Wellbeing and Independence for Young People with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

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Chapter 9. The 'Lives Lived Well' surveys: The link between policy and practice

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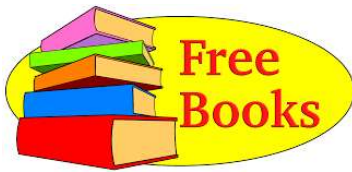
Chapter 11. Supporting wellbeing at Chailey Heritage School

Chapter 12. Supporting independence at Chailey Heritage School

Chapter 13. Conclusion

Bringing together results of an extensive survey of over 200 schools who teach young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties, Adam Colley explores what wellbeing, community participation and independence mean to young people with PMLD. This unique resource presents many innovative ways in which schools are working to ensure young people with PMLD have lives of value that are as rich and meaningful as possible. This book can be used as a guide, resource and inspiration for adults sharing their lives with young people with PMLD - whether practitioners or parents - and concludes by asking what we can learn from these young people to support them in living life to the full.

20% off with discount code FLY21 - Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount and only applies to books purchased directly via our website. For more information visit: www.routledge.com/9780367564063



I have put all of my multisensory education books on a website to download for free. Visit the link below to access them:

<https://sites.google.com/view/flolonghornsensorybooksfreedow/home>

Here is a list of what is available. The 'Sensology Workout' book is very important, 'waking up the senses' so learning can be engaged!

- iPads, Apps and Special Learners (2012) - Way out of date but may be of interest.
- Sensory Art for Very Special People (2010)
- **The Sensology Workout: Waking Up the Senses (2007)**
- A Feast of Music: Music and Drama for All - Volumes One and Two - Diane Haylor & Sue Bradshaw with Flo Longhorn (2005)
- Making Friends with Johanna: Communicating with Very Special People - Johanna de Haas and family, edited by Flo Longhorn (2003)
- Literacy for Very Special People (2001)
- Numeracy for Very Special People (2000)
- Sensory Drama for Very Special People (2000)
- Sex Education and Sexuality for Very Special People - A Sensory Approach (1997)
- Sensory Cookery for Very Special People - A Practical Approach (1997)
- Enhancing Education Through the Use of Ultraviolet Light & Fluorescing Materials (1997)
- Planning a Multisensory Massage Programme for Very Special People (1993)
- Prerequisites to Learning for Very Special People (1993)
- Religious Education for Very Special Children (1993)
- Sensory Science - National Curriculum for Very Special People (1993)
- **Planning a Sensory Curriculum and Sensory Banks for the Very Special Child - A Practical Approach to Curriculum Planning (1984)**

Yes, 1984! My first book on multisensory education, self-published 37 years ago - never before distributed - now available for free! A later edited version was published as:



- **Sensory Curriculum for Very Special People** - I do not have publishing rights for this, but you can order on amazon.co.uk or many bookshop sites or stores.

