

# Successfully using iPads to support the diverse needs of your students.

## Customising the iPad to meet the diverse needs of your students

There are so many built in [accessibility features](#) for customising the iPad to meet the diverse needs of your students including speak selection, [assistive touch](#) – many of which have had improvements made to them, or completely new features added in the updated operating system [iOS 6](#), such as [guided access](#). These accessibility settings can be found under the general Settings app, along with the [restrictions](#) settings that you can enable to restrict access to various functions and applications within the iPad, such as deleting and installing apps.



Additional accessories such as durable cases, speakers, mounts, switch interfaces, keyguards and styluses can also help to make the iPad more accessible for your students and many of these links can be found on the [accessories page](#).



There are also some general [tips and tricks](#) that can ensure a more successful implementation into the classroom, and help you to use your iPad and the many apps in a more organised and efficient manner. These can also be found in the comprehensive [iPad Starter Guide](#) available from Mac World.

And finally – purchasing of multiple apps for the school environment at discounted rates are available now through the [Apple Volume Purchase Program](#).

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## [Keeping up to date and feeling supported](#)

If you look at our [Spectronics Blog](#) you will find loads of [Apple and Apps-Related resources](#). Keep an eye on the following lists which are updated regularly.

- [Apps for Special Education](#)
- [Apps for AAC](#) (Communication)
- [Apps for Literacy Support](#)

Many of the app reviews you find might have links to short videos on [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#). This is a great way to see the app in action before you decide to buy it.

To find out about apps and what's new you can look at a number of website links on our blog under [Sources for Quality App Reviews](#).

You can also learn about apps, share your discoveries and ask questions using Social Media sites like [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We have prepared the following handout with some ideas for [Building your Special Education and Learning Support Professional Learning Networks](#) – although this is just a start – there are new ones coming out all the time!



[Spectronics Online](#) is a fast growing subscription based resource helping you make informed apps and technology choices for your students.

## Evaluating apps and feature matching them to the individual

[What makes an awesome app?](#) Well that is the million dollar question – it all depends on the student's skills and abilities, the environment they are in and the task you want them to complete. We find the [SETT Framework](#) a useful organisational instrument to find the right tool!

[Decision Making Apps Rubrics](#) are also a useful tool to evaluate specific features of apps in educational settings.

[Apps feature matching is an essential step](#) for ensuring you are selecting the right app for your students with communication difficulties.



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### Apps demonstrated in today's session:



**Visual Schedule Planner** This is a fabulous app for creating visual timetables and activity schedules with a variety of views and customisation options.



**Creative Book Builder** This app enables you to create, edit and publish ebooks rich with multimedia content! All published ebooks can be read by any ePub reader including iBooks.



**Custom Boards Premium** A unique app that provides a heap of low tech templates including some great ones for visual supports which can be populated right on the iPad and then either saved as PDF, printed or emailed.



**Pictello** This app is great for developing a Book About Me, social stories, personal histories or presentations with photos, also has a slideshow and auto play mode.



**Cookie Doodle** Use this app to make yummy creations and develop multi gesture skills with the iPad or encourage a range of expressive and receptive language skills.



**Sounding Board** This is a nice free option for developing simple communication boards with 1 to 9 cells, with voice output and the ability to use your own photos and link pages into a book.



**Scene & Heard** An app that can be used to create full visual scene displays with a series of hotspots for communication.



**Proloquo2go** A full featured communication app with symbolstix and text to speech, various layouts and vocabularies available, fully customisable with many individualised settings.



**Predictable** A full featured text to speech app with word prediction, conversation history and the ability to store phrases.