



## Edition Three

# 'Special Apps for Very Special Learners'

September 2020

Flo Longhorn



Edition 4 will be out later this year. If interested, send me an email  
[flopml@gmail.com](mailto:flopml@gmail.com)



## September 2020

### Message from Flo Longhorn:

#### Hello from Belgium!

This is the latest list of apps that are aimed at very special children, teenagers and adults who enjoy apps that are simple and satisfying. They have been researched online at the Apple app and Android stores and various other sources. You can use Google search from the apps' titles shown in this document.



Like everybody, very special learners will enjoy certain apps more than others, which is great. In order to select and indicate to you what they like, this may take them some time. Ensure they have the opportunity to see the apps many times - they will definitely communicate which they like best!



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

The apps lists for May and June are still available.  
For a copy, send an e-mail to:

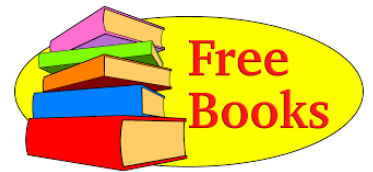
[flopml@gmail.com](mailto:flopml@gmail.com)





I am putting all my sensory books on a website to download for free. I am in the process of creating the website. This is a labour of my old grey cells, but I will post all the details as soon as it is complete.

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



Flo's books:

- iPads, Apps and Special Learners (2012) - Way out of date but may be of interest.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)
- 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)
- Sensory Curriculum for Very Special People - I do not have publishing rights for this, but you can order on [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) or many bookshop sites or stores.





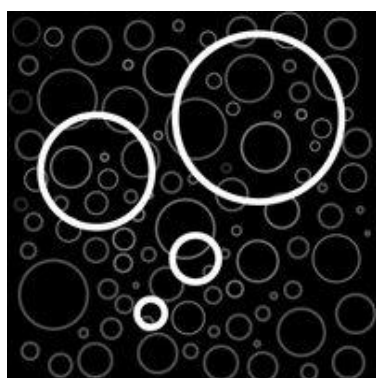
***Magic Fluids Lite*** - (Free - can upgrade for £3.99) - Random touch/swipe actions.

Just touch the screen and you create random, swirling, colourful water and smoke. Really eye catching. You can change the force and size of the smoke and water which offers a choice to the viewer, especially if they have a visual problem. Have a look at the rotating blower!

For Android:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.magicfluids.demo&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.magicfluids.demo&hl=en_GB)

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



***Bubbles in a Cross Voice*** (Free, no adverts) - swipe, shake.

This is so obscure, as is the title, but ideal for the very special iPad player. It opens to a black screen which then fills with very clear moving bubbles. Swipe, shake or turn the tablet around and the bubble silently move. That's it - errorless learning!

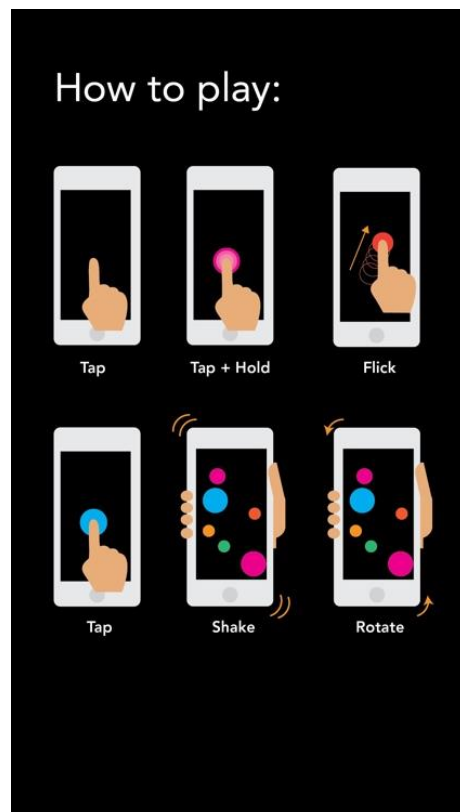
iPad only: <https://apps.apple.com/ai/app/bubbles-in-a-cross-voice/id1384519945>



**Mebop Boo** or **Bebop Spooky** (**Free**, no adverts) - tap and more - see below.

This is spooky for Halloween but use it anytime as it has a weird spooky sound and feel to it! Excellent value as it is free!

- Over 30 unique Halloween sounds.
- Tap and swipe to hear new sounds and create new shapes.
- Tap and hold to create your own sized shape.
- Tilt and shake for added surprise.
- No in-app purchases or third-party advertising.



## EDA Play Apps

The following app is excellent and originates from Prague. The sounds and images are exemplary. A 'must' for everyone working with learners who have a visual difficulty or are working at a very simple level using simple images and sounds. The app offers clear graduated recording sheets.

They were created by the non-profit organisation EDA CZ z.ú. This is an early intervention centre in Prague, Czech Republic, which provides early intervention services to help the families of visually and multiply impaired children, from birth to 7 years of his/her age. The profits from the apps they offer support this amazing organisation EDA.

Here is the website for further information, please refer to it - lots of information.  
<https://www.edaplay.com>



**EDA Play Toby (Free)** - visual play, assessment and 'next steps in looking'.

To see it in action, click below on the YouTube links.

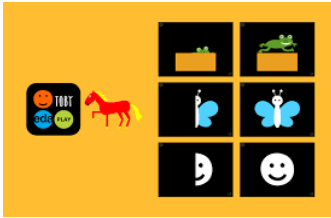


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POz1DRkdEe4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS79RFrKIpU>

The app covers two main stages. It also gives plenty of auditory cues to alert to the user to look at the screen and visually attend to what is happening.

**The first visual stage** - Functional vision practice offering tracking and scanning objects and sounds at different speeds as they move across the screen.



**The second visual stage** - Offers looking at the image then reaching out to touch the picture. This image moves with corresponding sounds reinforcing 'reaching out'. The last section is a black screen, so motivation must be there to explore. Curiosity comes into play! I love the sheep who poops!

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/eda-play-toby/id1103173134>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.cz.edaplay.toby>



**EDA Play Pauli** (£2.99) - visual, fine motor, curiosity.

This app has a focus on motivation for the training of fine motor and visual skills. The app takes the player into a story all about a girl called Pauli. The first part covers the discovery of the sequence of a plot. The second part leads to the understanding of a simple storyline.

The sequence of the story follows Pauli as she:

- Wakes up.
- Brushes teeth.
- Dresses.
- Makes porridge for breakfast.
- Goes to visit granny.
- Picks apples and then goes home to sleep.

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.cz.edaplay.toby&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.cz.edaplay.toby&hl=en_GB)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/eda-play-toby/id1103173134>



**Infantio** - (Free, no ads; add-on recommended - labelled 'access') - stimulate and soothe.



**Very new app - excellent for stimulation for older children and students.**

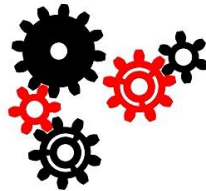
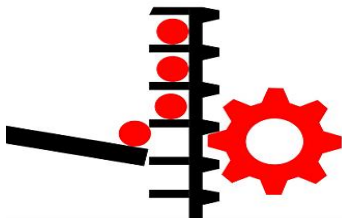
I am very excited by this new app; about time we had such quality suitable for older viewers. Have a look and listen to the animations here, the sounds are sophisticated and the images modern, eye-catching and minimalist to avoid over-stimulation. The blurb is good too, info that is needed for everyone.

<https://www.infant.io/animations>

Excellent high contrast animations which engage on the first steps of learning covering:

- Puzzles
- Patterns
- Mechanics
- Movements
- Counting

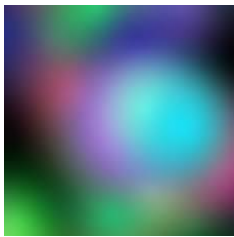
Here are samples of moving mechanics images which are animated in the app:



There are 50 high-contrast animations so far, based on early cognitive development, with others in the pipeline.

<https://apps.apple.com/app/id1504605743>

No Android version yet.



**Sensory Activity Center** (make sure you use this USA spelling!) (**Free**)  
- simple games.

Out this year 2020; rather odd but a little different. Some of the activities would suit older learners such as the pastries (my favourite) with lots of odd noises, space with rockets and the cute bizarre pets!



Appadvice says: "(Out March 2020) Sensory Activity Center has a variety of visually stimulating activities that support simple interactions designed with autistic and other special needs children in mind.

Activities have relaxing music and respond to tapping. Activities involve moving

images and fun, bright colours. There are no time limits so Sensory Activity Center can provide endless' sensory engagement which can provide soothing stimulating opportunities."



<https://apps.apple.com/tt/app/sensory-activity-center/id1504337010>

No Android version yet.

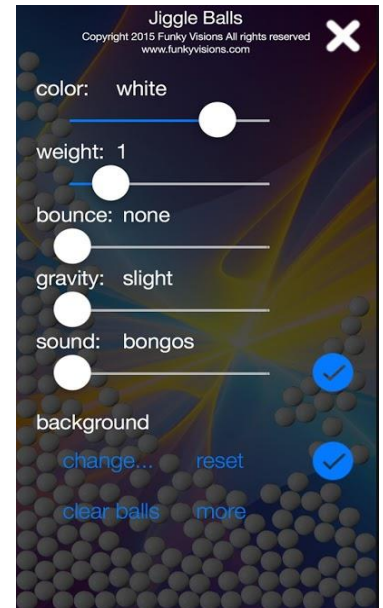


**Jiggle Balls** (Free, no adverts, offers in-app purchases) - tap and tilt.



Jiggle balls is a new, modern, simple game where you put in your own background such as a photo. The balls come in a choice of colours and are vivid against a darker background. There is also choice of sounds so the app can be easily personalised and offer choice. Just jiggle the tablet for a full effect.

Comment on app store: "For autistic students: Two students I worked with are 3-4 years old, nonverbal, with poor engagement to the iPad. This app they both focused, the sound providing almost as much fascination as the balls. They liked it when the balls bounced rapidly against each other."



[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.funkyvisions.jiggleballs&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.funkyvisions.jiggleballs&hl=en_GB)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/jiggle-balls-studio/id384846111>

(Please note, there is an app that is called 'jiggle' which is too rude and also a real item that may surprise you when you search for this app...)



**Toilet Swipe** (Free) - and a crazy waste of time but fun swipes/speed.

The photos say it all, you have to swipe the toilet rolls and see how long it takes you....

Great for the obsessive or twiddling person!



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=br.com.tapps.toiletttime&hl=en>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=br.com.tapps.toiletttime&hl=en>

**Following on with toilet humour!**



**Flush Force** (**Free** - buy and collect real items) - funny and foul.

'Hear the call and flush 'em all!'

Brilliant! Modern graphics! Great sound effects! Funny and foul as well, just right for students. Have a look at crocodile and feed him chicken legs or wash him. You can buy and collect the animals and toilets too!



Click below for video:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/flush-force/id1321683326>

<https://www.androidout.com/item/android-apps/969821/flush-force/>

**TechSafe SEND** (**Free**) - online safety app.



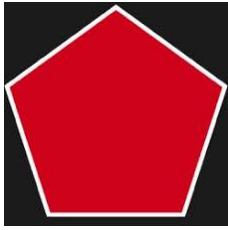
For carers and educators of children with special educational needs and disabilities. It covers significant areas of risk in accessing online materials. While it is not really for very special learners, it is certainly useful in other parts of any special setting. Older and college level special students especially would need access to this well-presented info. I learned a lot as a granny, for my grandchildren. It covers:

- Time management
- Viewing content
- Social interaction
- Social behaviour
- I need help
- Take the quiz



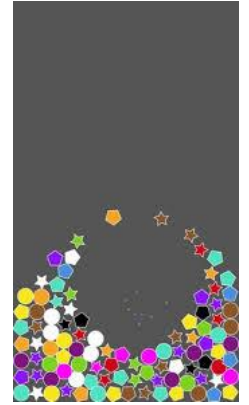
<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/techsafe/id1141736679>

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.com.exciteed.techsafe&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.com.exciteed.techsafe&hl=en_GB)

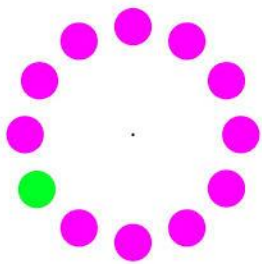


**Kuiper Shapes** (Free, no adverts) - tap, shake.

Very simple game; just tap and shake - similar to a rattle. Each tap creates little bright shapes that move with sounds and if you shake, they fall down. Nice cause and effect. Sometimes the shapes explode....



No Android version that I could find. For the iPad:  
<https://apps.apple.com/il/app/kuiper-shapes/id1073379627>



**Purple Dots** (Free, no adverts) - for grown-ups, visual illusion.

This app is for grown-ups. Who all need a break and also to remember how the brain can deceive. It is an optical illusion. Stare at the black dot in the centre and the gap in the dots will fade to a complimentary colour. You can change the colour, number of dots and timing.

<https://apps.apple.com/ag/app/purple-dots/id887335438>

No Android version.



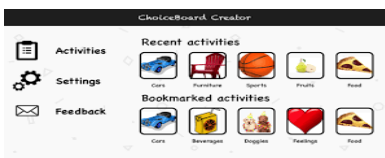
**Broomlea Primary School**, for learners with complex needs and additional support, is situated in Glasgow, Scotland. They have produced an excellent video on how to use the **Choice Board Creator** app. The video takes place in a school setting which shows how they use the app with very special children - just like the very special ones in YOUR class or setting. Well done, Broomlea for sharing your expertise and your wonderful learners! The video below was found on the CALL Scotland website.

<https://eu-lti.bbcollab.com/collab/ui/session/playback>



**Choice Board Creator** (£1.99) - communication.

A simple communication board that can be custom-made especially for an individual learner.



<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/choiceboard-creator/id453988580>

No Android version that I can find.

## COMMUNICATION APPS LIST

A good list of iOS communication apps can be found in a PDF that can be downloaded from the Independent Living Centre, Nedlands, Australia:

<https://ilc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ios-apps-for-communication.pdf>



**Simpleffects** (all one word!) (**Free**) - excitement swipe, tap, press.

There are loads of exciting effects on this app, none of the usual stuff, designed by Pawel Delimata from the smallbigsquare site.

Excellent, you can control the special effects, and also a random or default screen. The modern effects are really good for students, no baby stuff in this selection! The background music can be a drag, just turn off the sound, like I did.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=br.com.tapps.toiletime&hl=en>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/simpleeffects/id1036930769>



**Cause and Effect Sensory Learning** (Bundle of 3 apps for 99p as of August 2020) - simple tapping games.

Simple cause and effect games in this bundle, worth it in my opinion but not if you buy the games separately. The apps are fresh and modern and a good change from the older apps around.

The sound can be switched off if they distract. The separate app games in the bundle have a choice of backgrounds and are:

- Sensory touch and learn
- Balloon sensory-touch the balloon and get a silly sound,
- Voice touch-good sound effects

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app-bundle/cause-and-effect-sensory-learning/id1041435620>

No Android version found.



**Switch Box Invaders (Free)** - single tap.

This is a fast-paced single tap game made for and with young people who use switches to control their iOS devices. It can be played by touching the screen or with any iOS compatible switch interface.

The game follows the usual space game of a UFO shooting down alien space rockets. And scoring points.



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/switch-box-invaders/id590004243>

(I could not find an Android version)



**Screaming Chicken (Free, in-house purchases)** - crazy fun, tap and press.

Not for the fainthearted. The chicken is on the screen waiting to be poked! But students will enjoy pressing the chicken's stomach, letting go for the scream to be released. It is then assessed across the world and you are ranked on the length of the scream. I ranked 610 in the world with a scream of 442. Not bad ... especially if the volume is turned on full blast!

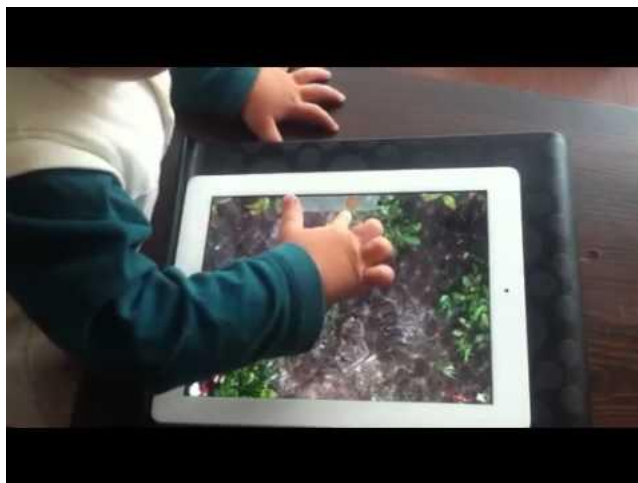
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glassessoftware.sct&hl=en\\_US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glassessoftware.sct&hl=en_US)

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/screaming-chicken-weird-sound/id1109643454>



**Pocket Ponds** (Free, with add-ons) - swish/drag fingers.

An old classic, lovely watery sounds and koi that come up to your finger and nibble it. Click on Tim Cheng's toddler playing with the koi in the pond.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJMaxu7hcRU>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/pocket-ponds/id1214421483>

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.triggerwave.pocketponds&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.triggerwave.pocketponds&hl=en_GB)

## Videos for Special Viewers Who Have CVI.

Cortical Visual Impairment - difficulty in linking what is viewed with visual understanding. Or visual problems/simple viewing.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-wZA4w-Lz4\\_N\\_71vCzXLA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-wZA4w-Lz4_N_71vCzXLA/videos)



These videos are produced by a special mum, Alissa de Sousa.

"Hello! I'm a mom of two sweet boys, one who is medically complex including cortical vision impairment. I've created these videos based on CVI research so that he can enjoy the same types of things his brother does, all while hopefully improving his vision!"

So impressive Alissa, well done!



# Family Fund

Helping disabled children

## iPADS and the FAMILY FUND UK

I really believe that the very special child, student or adult needs a tablet as a necessity in life, preferably an iPad. This is so they can be fully included in modern-day life ... everyone else is!

[www.familyfund.org.uk](http://www.familyfund.org.uk)

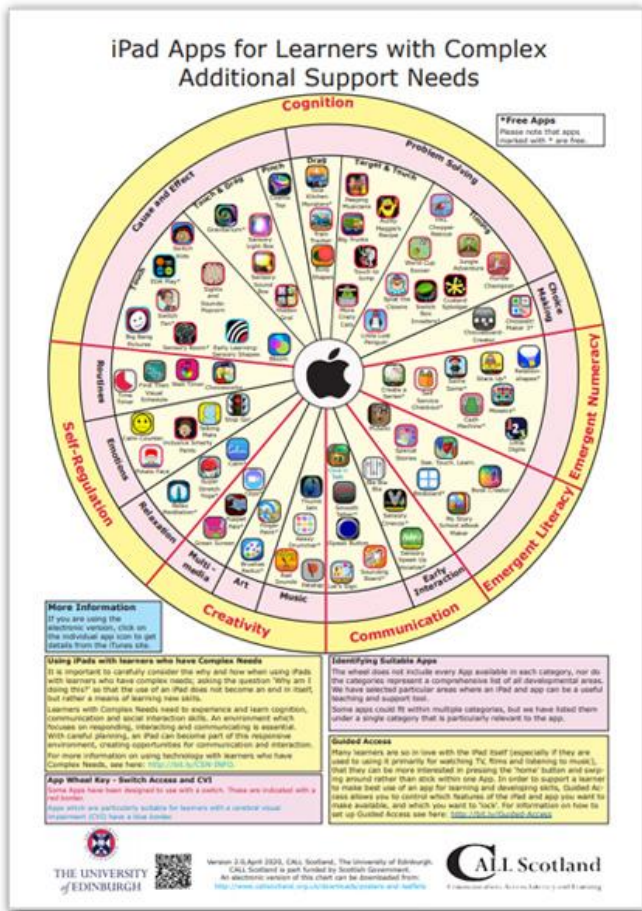
**Family Fund** is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people. So, the Family Fund offers grants to purchase tablets for special children. Here is the link - go for it!



<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/computers-and-tablets>

They also have a set of short videos on how to use an iPad which may be useful:

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/digital-resources>



The best news of the year from Gillian McNeill at CALL Scotland!



"The CALL Scotland 'wheel' of Apps provides a categorised guide to iPad Apps for individuals with complex communication support needs, who may need to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). First published in 2014, I'm pleased to share now that it has had its 2020 refresh and update."

Well done Gillian! It can be downloaded for free and with further information at:

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/blog/updated-aac-ipad-app-wheel-available-now/>



**Baby Doodle Free** (a 'no ads' baby doodle app) - ignore the word 'baby'.  
A very simple drawing app with brushes, pens, and a rainbow option for colour.



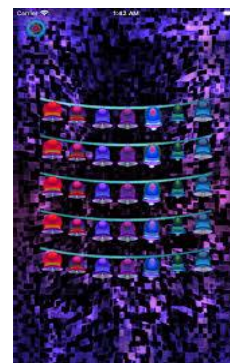
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.sbcomputing.sbdoodle.android>  
No iPad version.



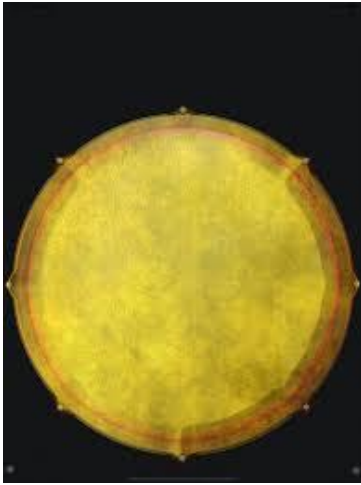
**Finger Bells (Free)** - tap and drag.

Lovely tinkly bell noises, the scales can be changed and the bells flash as they are touched. There are three sets of bells with different bells sound and that is all it does!

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/finger-bells/id494442059>  
No Android version.





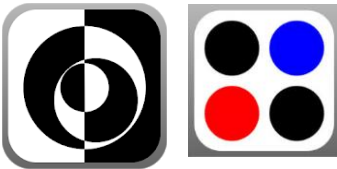


**Djembe (Free)** - drum tap and bang.

This is the sound of a special drum from West Africa. You just need to use the first image to play the drum by tapping or banging. The app is simple but effective. Drumming is used by many people for lowering stress.



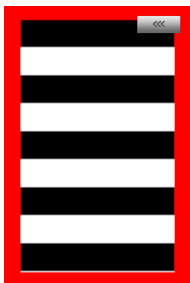
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=br.com.couldsys.djembe&hl=en>  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/djembe/id480770201>



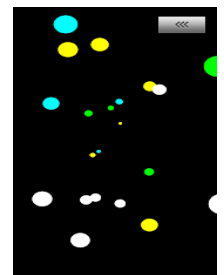
**Mommy Saver Infant Visual Stimulation (Free - no ads)**



This is a very simple visual stimulation app with rather nice calming piano playing. The blurb says it was made by a mum for her son. It is described as a calming and joyful sensory experience with:



- High contrast images.
- A variety of movements and shapes.
- A variety of interactions to keep it interesting.
- Game changes at just the right speed to engage.
- Classical music (can be muted).
- (More music options in the paid version.)
- NO ADS! Mommy Saver is ad-free!



<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/mommy-saver/id1097229852>  
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mommysaverapp&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mommysaverapp&hl=en_GB)



**Mommy Saver Plus (£1.39 - with add-ons).**

Has more music and mini games than the free version.

