

# iPads in the Classroom – Lessons Learned... Lessons Shared

Information, Insights and Ideas for Using iPads in the Elementary  
Classroom

## A Checklist for Selecting Quality Apps For Your Students

Posted on [March 11, 2012](#)

“...we must prepare learners for their future, not our past. 21st Century teaching and learning is NOT about contemporary technology, for 20th Century teaching can continue to thrive with gadgets. Embracing digital devices in classrooms accelerates the theoretical shift to 21st Century pedagogy – but just what is it?”

*Greg Bass, Superintendent for Rocky View Schools*

The past three blog posts have addressed comprehensively **considerations when selecting and downloading apps for your instructional program**. Here is a checklist compiling the **25 key ideas in a question format**. If you have any other thoughts that I have missed here, let me know. When looking at an app to purchase and download, simply go through the checklist and place a checkmark beside the ones that apply. The more checkmarks there are, the more likelihood the app is a winner!

1. Is the app engaging and motivating for the students?
2. Can the students easily learn the app independently with some initial instruction?
3. Does the app facilitate meaningful learning?
4. Does the app facilitate Project Based Learning?
5. Does the app support inquiry?
6. Is the app high quality in terms of design and images (HD)?
7. Is it a productivity app that allows students to represent their learning in different ways?
8. Can the app be used in multiple ways?
9. Can the app be used across different grade levels?
10. Can the app be used across different subjects?
11. Is the app free of advertising?

12. Does the app facilitate different levels of thinking representative of Bloom's Taxonomy?
13. If the app is a game, does it facilitate higher level thinking skills?
14. If the app is a game, does it facilitate learning directly related to the curriculum?
15. If the app is a game, does the app provide instant motivating feedback?
16. Does the app provide a unique and alternative form of learning?
17. Is the app multi-dimensional allowing for choice and creativity?
18. Does the app provide development of a number of specific skills?
19. Does the app allow the student to learn in their modality?
20. Does the app allow the student to represent their learning in their modality?
21. Does the app facilitate ubiquitous learning by providing instant access to information?
22. Does the app support student learning success by providing opportunities for differentiated learning (UDL)?
23. Does the app allow the student to easily back up their work?
24. Is the app recommended by several quality sources (word of mouth/online)?
25. Does the one time purchase of the app provide enough capacity for it to effectively function?



One final note, if you are unsure about the app even after going through the list, you may want to purchase one copy of the app before purchasing multiple copies under your bulk agreement with **Apple**. Although I love all of the **Apple products** both professionally and personally, I really think Apple should set up a **'try before you buy' program** specifically for educators so we can test out the product with our students before we make the purchase. It is not only a cost issue in education with our limited budgets, but it is also a matter of time being wasted. As professionals we don't have time to deal with apps that are of poor quality and that are not applicable. I hope **Apple** realizes that the schools, teachers and students are a significant consumer of their iPad products and this market is just continuing to exponentially expand. I realize that the financial bottom line is the priority for the corporation but isn't it exciting that our **21<sup>st</sup> Century students** are being taught with devices and tools that are meeting their needs in order to be a thriving and successful learner?

### ***A Checklist for Selecting Quality Apps For Your Students – Lessons***

#### ***Learned ... Lessons Shared***

This entry was posted in [Quality iPad Apps](#) and tagged [apps](#), [bloom's taxonomy](#), [education](#), [inquiry learning](#), [learning modalities](#), [productivity apps](#), [Project Based Learning](#), [ubiquitous learning](#), [UDL](#) by [tmorris](#). Bookmark the [permalink \[http://blogs.rockyview.ab.ca/tmorris/2012/03/11/a-checklist-for-selecting-quality-apps-for-your-students/\]](http://blogs.rockyview.ab.ca/tmorris/2012/03/11/a-checklist-for-selecting-quality-apps-for-your-students/) .

Comments are closed.