

Evaluating Apps: Individual Project

Title: Spelling City

Evaluator: Alexis McKnight

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Have you played enough to know every aspect? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you try things that were wrong and/or unexpected 	✓		
Did the software crash?		✓	
Was the content appropriate? Did it meet the user's needs?	✓		Very kid friendly and aesthetic changed from grade level
Were the screens appealing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color, items on screen, sounds 	✓		Very eye catching
Is it easy to navigate?	✓		
Is it easy to learn?	✓		Very repetitive
Does the user need Supervision to use		✓	
If the App required a response, was it appropriate? (right or wrong)	✓		It gave a ding with great job!
Were there bells and whistles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, do they enhance instead of detract? • If not, should there be? 		✓	Nothing to detract from the actual learning aspect of the app
Did you like using the App?	✓		The premium version not the standard package
What was the cost? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there a "lite" version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, was it enough 			Free for lite version 69.95 per year for premium
Were there in-app purchases? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, what were the additional costs? 		✓	
How does it compare to other apps that do the same?			It costs a lot more than other apps yearly
Additional Comments			I liked the premium but the free version is not worth your time

Developmentally Appropriate

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Child Development and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject Matter appropriate? 	✓		Very easy to differentiate between grade levels

Evaluating Apps: Individual Project

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Focus? • Provides for Learning New Content? • Follows Appropriate Teaching Sequence? 			
Individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it match individual's abilities? • Does it meet individual's needs? 	✓		Everyone would enjoy the premium version of this app I think! It would work for all ages and get everyone involved.
Social/Cultural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bias? • Commercialism Comments 		✓	

The app I choose for Drill and Practice is Vocabulary Spelling City. This app is offered on iPhone or iPad and is the version 2.0.5. The publisher of this app is SpellingCity. To create an account, you must go onto their website before logging in on the app. The target audience is any age 4 and up. I choose this for Drill and Practice because it focuses on one thing, spelling. There is no other activity you can do on this app. It is spelling over and over and that is why I choose this app for Drill and Practice. As a teacher, I think this would be a great app to add into your curriculum. When working on spelling, have the children log on for extra practice. I think this will give them a fun activity where it wouldn't feel like they were learning. On the website you can access some information for free, but to have access to the app you must have a teachers code or a premium membership through a parent. The cost of the premium membership for teachers are 69.95 for one year which gives you 25 student licenses.

The free version meets educational standards, gives you access to spelling tests, and saves word lists for you. The premium version gives you access to so much more. You can track students' progress and data, give practice vocabulary tests, build phonics and writing skills, and can play more than 35 fun games. The app was initially created to save teachers time by automating spelling practice tests and to empower students to study independently through engaging game-based learning activities. They offer a wide variety of study tools for developing strong vocabulary skills and best practices for effective vocabulary word instruction. The app lets

Evaluating Apps: Individual Project

you pick which grade level you want. You can practice words, but as a teacher you can create study sets of words for your students. This could be helpful if you want them only to practice a certain set of words.

While I do think the premium membership has a lot to offer, the standard package is very lackluster. It does not offer really anything if you do pay for the yearly subscription. I think if my teacher bought the subscription and I could use it as a resource it would be very helpful. You can also take it home and practice as well. It gives you immediate feedback which I appreciate, and it also tracks your progress through the games and practice tests. I did like that when working from home parents can personalize the practice and the multiple word exposure. This gives parents some sort of control too.