Educational Software Write-Ups

Title: Padlet
Version: 95.0 (New map padlet type, bug fixes)
Publisher or Producer: Wallwisher, Inc.
Types of software: Tools
Curriculum: Help plan lessons, make them more organized, app store states it is for age 4+ but I don't believe that a 4 year old could navigate this app at all. I would consider implementing this app into the curriculum of a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade classroom.
Cost: Free to download, in-app purchases (Padlet Jetpack $34.99, Padlet Pro $12.99, Padlet Pro $99.00)
Describe the software: Padlet is a digital graphic canvas used to create, share, and collaborate on projects. It is very flexible in regards to the way that is is used. As I was evaluating, I discovered many different uses, education based or otherwise. Lesson plans, portfolios, blogs, forums, inspiration boards, writing prompts, Q+A, are all just a few of the different ways you can use Padlet.
Impressions of the software: Very user friendly and versatile. I would consider using this in my classroom as a future educator.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Explain Everything
Version: 5.4.7
Publisher or Producer: Explain Everything sp. z o.o.
Types of software: Tools
Curriculum: The app store describes this app as for ages 4 and up, however I do not agree with this at all. I can't imagine any 4-year-old would be able to use this app as it is meant to be used even during this time where children are practically born with the ability to use an iPhone. For one, it requires the ability to read fluently to use. For very basic level use, I would think that children 6 and up could use this app with supervision and direction of their teacher. For a more in depth use, I would suggest ages 8 or 9 and up.
Cost: Free to download but can also download subscriptions. These subscriptions have a one week free trial, then $6.99/month afterwards)
Describe the software: Explain Everything is similar to Padlet in the sense that it is also a digital graphic canvas used to create, share, and collaborate on projects via iPad. Unlike Padlet, it is less versatile and didn't seem to have as many uses. There are a lot less template options and you can't look at projects made by other users without a Join CODE.
Impressions of the software: I really enjoyed this app and especially liked the template for meetings, which basically had an organized set up of notebook paper, sticky notes, and scratch paper.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Mimo

Version: 4.0 This version made the first level of every skill in the Learn to Code track available without purchasing a subscription.
Publisher or Producer: Mimohello GmbH
Types of software: Tutorial
Curriculum: 4+, however I don't agree with this at all. There's no way a 4 year old could navigate this app even with guidance and supervision of an adult. I would consider letting a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade class use this app to learn how to code.
Cost: Free to download with in-app purchases available. There is a 7 day free trial to access all abilities and then it is $59.99/year.
Describe the software: Mimo is an easy to follow and user friendly coding tutorial app that teaches the basics of HTML, CSS, and Javascript as well as other miscellaneous coding operations. The different learning tracks are broken up into sections and made available as you level up by answering questions correctly during the tutorials and getting
Impressions of the software: At first I thought that the free access content was sufficient enough and that purchasing the premium content wasn't necessary, however I realized that you can't pass level 2 of the HTML basic tutorials or take any other basic courses without upgrading to the premium access. I would not feel that this is sufficient knowledge for my class if I really wanted them to learn how to code, although it would be a great introduction and if it worked out well I would definitely consider paying for the premium content based on what I've seen so far.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes. Even with the limited access, the HTML tutorial is very easy to understand and enough to understand very basic HTML coding.

Title: Swift Playground
Version: 3.1
Publisher or Producer: Apple Inc.
Types of software: Coding, tutorial
Curriculum: 4+ however it says in the description that it's perfect for "students just starting out, from twelve to one-hundred-and-twelve."
Cost: Free to download, no in-app purchases
Describe the software: Swift Playground is a coding and tutorial app in which students can have fun while experimenting with code on a beginner level with zero or very little coding knowledge. Students can watch their codes come to life in 3D interactive animation by either using pre-made templates or starting entirely from scratch.
Impressions of the software: This app would be really useful to get the older kids to start thinking creatively and in terms of problem solving and comprehension as well as following algorithms and instruction. I would definitely tie in Hopster Coding Safari for Kids and Mimo into a lesson with Swift Playground so that the students already have the knowledge foundation to begin coding their puzzles either with a partner or in small groups.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Hopster Coding Safari for Kids
Version: 3.3.1
Publisher or Producer: Plato Media Ltd.

Types of software: Coding

Curriculum: 4+, made for ages 0-5 according to the app store, though I don't see how someone younger than one or even two could navigate this app without a lot of guidance and supervision, if at all. I would say that kindergarteners at the beginning of the year could benefit from this app however anyone over 3rd grade would probably get bored after a few minutes.

Cost: Free to download with a one time in-app purchase of $1.99 to unlock the 2nd world

Describe the software: Hopster Coding Safari for Kids is a beginner level coding app that introduces the basic fundamentals of coding (decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, and algorithms) to young children by having them create paths for animals to reach certain destinations.

Impressions of the software: I could see where this app could get very repetitive after a while so if I were to use this app in my classroom it would be as a very basic introduction to coding that I wouldn't spend more than about ten minutes letting the class play with before moving onto something like Mimo or Swift Playground to build onto it.

Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Splice

Version: 4.1.4

Publisher or Producer: Bending Spoons Apps IVS

Types of software: Movie/Video Creator

Curriculum: The app store describes this app as suitable for ages 4+ although I would not expect any child lower than 4th grade to be able to use this app independently, and possibly 3rd grade with guidance and supervision.

Cost: Free to download with in-app purchases and also offers a 7-day free trial at $2.99/week to gain full access to all content.

Describe the software: Splice is a video editing software app which gives you the ability to delete parts and add text, voice over recordings, and sound effects.

Impressions of the software: I felt like this was the only app that I encountered in which the free access (without having to insert your card information to get the free trial and risk getting charged because you forgot to cancel it on time) was sufficient enough content and abilities to consider using it during a lesson.

Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Khan Academy Kids

Version: 1.8

Publisher or Producer: Khan Academy

Types of software: Tutorial, Simulation

Curriculum: The app store lists this app as suitable for ages 4+ and I believe that this is accurate. The application has curriculum beginning at age 2 all the way to 6+ but I don't think a child could use this app independently until they are 4+

Cost: Free to download

Describe the software: Khan Academy Kids is an interactive educational app that has a wide range of uses including stories, games, and lessons about numbers, letters, reading, and more.

The narrator is a green bear named Kodi and she instructs the user to participate in fun activities involving her four friends.

Impressions of the software: I absolutely adore this app and would definitely use it in my classroom. As far as I could tell, there were no in-app purchases, which throughout this project I realized is not a common thing at all. There is so much on this app for children to do and it is user friendly from ages 2-6+. The tutorial is easy to understand and follow and it sets a foundation for a student to know how to interact with the rest of the app. I also never came across any ads while reviewing the app and that is a huge plus. It came as no surprise to me that this app is listed as the Editors' Choice on the app store.

Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Splash Math- Games for Kids
Version: 5.7.7
Publisher or Producer: StudyPad, Inc.
Types of software: Drill and Practice
Curriculum: 4+ even though the curriculum for Math Splash starts at kindergarten, I think gifted 4 year olds could definitely benefit from this app with the guidance and supervision of an adult, so this age bracket is accurate. However, kindergarteners could definitely use this app independently after their teacher showed them how it works.
Cost: Free to download with in-app purchases and there is a 7-day free trial after which the premium content is $7.99/month, $4.99/month if you commit to a year, or $7.99/month if you commit to 4 months.
Describe the software: Splash math is a drill and practice application for Kindergarten-5th grade that teaches mathematics. For example, the kindergarten level had four topics to choose from: counting and comparison, addition and subtraction, measurements, and geometry. There is the option to choose between school and home so both parents and teachers can choose between these topics and the units and games within them to create a personalized daily learning path for their child or students.
Impressions of the software: This is a very visually appealing and entertaining app. The app's mascot, a pink hippo wearing a sailor outfit, is the perfect amount of amusing without being distracting. I think this is a good drill and practice app because it is fun while also being educational. It does not, however, provide enough content in the free version to be completely sure. If I was serious about the possibility of incorporating this app into the curriculum of my classroom, I would definitely sign up for the free trial at the risk of forgetting to cancel it after 7 days just to get a feel of all that it offers.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Kids Planet Discovery!
Version: 3.9.1 (iOS 11 ready!)
Publisher or Producer: Planet Factory Interactive S.L.
Types of software: Discovery Learning
Curriculum: Ages 4+
Cost: Free to download but their are over 10 in-app purchases ranging from $1.99-$4.99.

Describe the software: Kids Planet Discovery sends kids off on virtual adventures around Planet Earth, giving them the chance to learn about cultures, animals, music, dress, geography, and more. This app is packed with fun learning adventure games and activities that keep kids busy, excited, and engaged for hours.

Impressions of the software: My first impression was that I think this is a great app for all around subjects. I can see this app being used for pre-school/kindergarten aged kids because they have a lot of basic information that you learn about at that age. I think it is very entertaining and well designed. The colors pop when you click on different things and I think the graphics were perfectly executed.

Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: ABC Mouse
Version: 7.23 (Bug fixes and optimizations)
Publisher or Producer: Age of Learning, Inc.
Types of software: Simulation
Curriculum: 4+, Made for Ages 0-5
Cost: Free to download, but has in-app purchases ranging from the lowest of $7.99 to the highest of $99.99.
Describe the software: ABCmouse is the award-winning learning program that covers reading, math, art, music, and more for kids ages 2-8. Created by teachers and education experts, it has 10,000+ exciting learning activities for children at all academic levels.
Impressions of the software: I have heard of ABCmouse several times and I think it is a wonderful app. It has standard-based curriculum for learning and has a variety of academic levels that it can reach. It includes books, videos, puzzles, printable activities, songs, games, and animations that I think would be so helpful to use in any elementary classroom.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Prodigy Math Game
Version: 3.3.3 (Prodigy no longer crashes on iOS 13)
Publisher or Producer: SMARTeacher Inc
Types of software: Problem Solving
Curriculum: 9+, I think that could be lowered to ages 6+. Infrequent/Mild Cartoon or Fantasy Violence
Cost: Free to download
Describe the software: Prodigy delivers a unique learning experience through an interactive math game where success depends on correctly answering skill-building questions. Players can earn rewards, go on quests and play with friends- all while learning new skills.
Impressions of the software: The software is very vibrant and the characters are crafted very well. I think it's great how it tells the student if the answer was right or wrong. I think this software would be perfect for middle school kids who are transitioning from younger activities, to more mature activities.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: ClassDojo
Version: 6.2.0 (new message screen, fix read receipts, fix story, fix drawing on photo, and improve localization)
Publisher or Producer: ClassDojo, Inc.
Types of software: Tools
Curriculum: 4+
Cost: Free to download but includes in-app purchases ranging from $5.99-$59.99.
Describe the software: ClassDojo is a safe and simple communication app for teachers, parents, and students. Teachers can encourage students for any skill, and can bring parents into the classroom experience by sharing photos, videos, and announcements.
Impressions of the software: I have actually heard and seen this app being used in a 4th grade elementary classroom that I observed about a year ago. This app is a great way to keep parents informed and gives them the opportunity to check and see how their kids are doing. It's very convenient to get rid of paper letters because this app is compatible with iPhones, iPads, and iPod touches.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: QR Reader for iPad
Version: 4.6 (Minor bug fixes)
Publisher or Producer: TapMedia Ltd
Types of software: Tool
Curriculum: 12+
Cost: Free to download with in-app purchases that are $0.99 a month to access and offers a 7 day free trial.
Describe the software: A simple and easy app that scans QR codes, barcodes, documents, and puzzles. The main features that it offers is scanning different documents, but if you upgrade to the monthly subscription you can unlock the TapMedia Pro. This allows you to have access to more documents and other accessories like a voice recorder.
Impressions of the software: I thought the software was very simple and easy to use. I looked up a QR code on my phone to see if the scanner worked on the Lite version. It took me straight to the website while on the app. It did everything that it said it did when I was looking through it. I would use this on reading lessons to scan book codes.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Total Recall
Version: 5.0 (Revamped graphics engine and a couple of new features)
Publisher or Producer: Michel Neuhaus
Types of software: Simulation
Curriculum: Organizes thoughts easily through graphic webs, 4+
Cost: Free to download; Free version is limited to 3 mind maps
Describe the software: Very easy and simple app that helps organize thoughts or ideas in a web design. You can make your own bubbles to add notes in, and create several different web

maps for different things. You can also get creative and change the style of the bubble, and also the color.

Impressions of the software: I think this is a great software to use for an essay prompt assignment. I can see it being very useful for students to organize their ideas for their essay topic.

Does the software pass APPS: Yes

Title: Brain Pop
Version: 3.1.9 (Minor bugs fixed)
Publisher or Producer: BrainPOP
Types of software: Tutorial
Curriculum: 4+, made for ages 6-8, in my own opinion.
Cost: Free to download, in-app subscriptions options
Describe the software: This app offers animated movies, characters who speak in a voice kids can relate to, encourages self-directed learning and further exploration of the world around them. This app is very interactive and full of color on every page. Very easy to navigate but younger kids will need an adults help or supervision.
Impressions of the software: I think this software is great for any lesson. The videos they have are so exciting and vibrant. You can really find just about anything you can need on the app and the word choice is very appropriate for any age student.
Does the software pass APPS: Yes