Planboard

Planboard is currently on version 2.26.1 as of October 7th,2020, it received this update on September 8th, 2020. Planboard is developed by Chlak.com Education Inc. Planboard is available on iPhone and Android devices. Planboard's target audience is teachers and it's a free app. Plan board is an app that focuses on lesson planning on the go. It has curriculum standards and attachments in the app. This app allows you to organize lessons, subjects, and the semester all in one place. This app is free to use but you must create an account to access the app, no worries considering it does not cost money to create an account! The app's core colors seem to be purple and white, once you open the app you are greeted with a pure purple background with the app's logo in the middle with login options underneath. This is a very sleek and modern design considering the intended audience age for this app.

As soon as you open the app it prompts you to a login screen, it is free to create an account and use this app which is very convenient. After you are all signed in the app asks you to create your first semester. It asks what semester you are in, like fall 2020 for example, then it asks for the start and end dates of the semester. Next it asks what your schedule rotation is and the days of the week you teach. After all of this you get to create your subjects that you need to make a lesson plan for, I added English to mine as an example. After this you get to select the curriculum you need to use for your lesson. This app is easy to use and has a sleek design. The navigation was simple and easy to learn, if you do get confused they have help menus on every screen that are detailed and through with explanations. This app even offers a live chat option if you need further help than the basic help menus. This app seems to be very well made and it is updated frequently for bug fixes, I would highly recommend this app to any teacher who wants to have or make their lesson plans on their phones!

Cosmic Kids

Cosmic Kids is currently on version 5.902.1 as of October 7th, 2020, it received this

update on September 8th, 2020. Cosmic Kids is developed by Cosmic Kids and the apps target

audience is kids aged 3-9. Cosmic Kids is available on iPhone and Android devices, it is also

available on Apple TV and Roku apps. Cosmic kids is free to download but you have to have a

subscription to use it. Cosmic kids is an app full of yoga and mindfulness videos for kids ages 3-

9. The app is regularly updated with new videos to keep your kiddos entertained and give them

new yoga exercises and mindfulness videos. This app is free to download but when you open the

app you are prompted to start a free trial or login in if you already have an account. The app does

not seem to have any core colors, it uses a bunch of colors which is appealing for a younger

audience.

As soon as you open Cosmic Kids you are greeted with a cute kid friendly background

with cherries, mushrooms and rainbows. It would be a very appealing design for younger

children, which is the intended audience for the app, but would make an older person not want to

go further than the first screen since this app has a subscription. You are offered a free 14 day

trial, the app costs $64.99 a year or $9.99 a month. When you click start a free trial it asks you a

question before you can continue, it asked me what color you got from mixing yellow and blue

and to ask my parents. This seems to be an added safety feature to the app that keeps children

from starting a free trial without parent's permission and I do enjoy this extra safety feature on

the app. Once you have an account if you click manage subscription you are again prompted

with the safety feature that asks a question and tells you to ask your parent's, this helps

preventing children from editing account details. Once you have access on the app you are

shown playlists of videos for your child to watch. These are all Yoga and Mindfulness videos aimed at young children. The app is user friendly and easy to navigate for a first time user. It has the same layout as Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube. It has category's like "Super Yoga" for examples with all the videos that qualify for that category directly under it, they even have a tag labeled "getting started". All around this is a well-polished and frequently updated app that is not hard to navigate and learn to use. If you are in the market for fun interactive yoga videos for your children this would be great for you! I could imagine someone who does yoga frequently that has children that are interested in Yoga using this app to get the child started. The videos are all kid friendly and are made in a manner that I would consider is for kids and kids only. If an adult watched the videos they could defiantly follow along and learn but the way they speak and go along in the videos is in a very kid friendly and kiddy manner that would personally irritate me on my own. This is a perfect app for young children that are interested in yoga though! The price point can be a deal breaker for some parents which is understandable but you do get a free 14 day trial to see if you like the app and want continue using it which is nice.

ABC Mouse

ABC Mouse is on version 8.3.0 as of October 7th, 2020, it received this update on October 4th, 2020. ABC Mouse is available on iPhone and Android devices. ABC Mouse is published by Age of Learning Incorporated and the target audience is children ages 2-8. ABC Mouse is free to download but you must have a subscription to use the app. ABC Mouse is a subscription based app that covers reading, math, art, music, and more learning materials for kids aged 2-8. This app was created by teachers and education experts and is an award-winning app when it comes to learning programs. ABC mouse has 10,000+ learning activities for children ages 2-8. The app is free to download but it is subscription based which can be a massive drawback, they do offer a 30 day free trial. ABC Mouse also offers an App bundle that includes ABC Mouse, Mathematics Animations, ABC Mouse Music Videos, Language Arts Animations, Mastering the Alphabet, ABC Mouse Science Animations, Magic Rainbow Traceables, and ABC Mouse Zoo, all of these apps do have in-app purchases. The Apps primary colors seem to be Red, Yellow, and blue. It has a cartoon background so it would look appealing to younger people, which is the app's targeted audience.

When you open the app you are greeted with a cartoon rendition of a child's classroom. The teacher has her arm out and there is a banner offering a free 30 day trial for the app. The upper top corner of the app is where people who already pay for the app can log In. ABC Mouse is $9.99 a month or $79.99 a year, the screen you are sent to when you sign up looks older and a bit outdated in my opinion but that is just my opinion afterall. Once you get past the login screen or you first make an account you are given a screen where you can choose to buy a year of assessment center access, $39.99 extra, that will give your child assessments that report their

performance on each skill that is assessed. The Assessment Center Access is not mandatory to buy like the actual subscription to use the app is. Once you are past that you get sent to a welcome screen and a voice tells you "Welcome to ABC Mouse, Let's get started!, it then takes you through a small tutorial of how to use the app. It asks you how you heard about ABC Mouse, it then asks for your name and last name. It then asks for the parent to create a profile. You then get to choose a teacher avatar and you academic level for the child, Toddler time-2nd grade, then you get to choose an avatar to represent the child. You also get to choose a hamster that you can also name and fish avatar that appear in the game. When you click on different things in the app like Learning Path for example a voice will say the title of what you clicked on, this is great for children but would annoy an older person trying to use the app in my opinion. This app is easy to navigate and everything is on one simple screen. There are a lot of activities for your child to do that varies depending on the child's academic level. The app also has a system where you can earn ticket for the activity's you complete, you start out with 50 tickets for free. Tickets can be used for buying your avatar clothes, buying things for your virtual room, buying things for your virtual pet hamster, and buying things for your virtual aquarium! I think this ticket system helps motivate children to continue using the app to learn as it gives them a motive to put effort into. This app is a great learning resource if you have a child that is at the academic level of 2nd grade or lower as the app does not go past 2nd grade. The cost can be a downfall to some people but it does have a free month trial which is the longest free trial I have seen from an app. The free trial would give parents and the child more than enough time to use and play around with the application to see if it is something they want to continue using. The app doesn't have the newest look in the world but it is updated frequently and would be great for younger children which is the apps target audience.

Swift Playgrounds

Swift Playgrounds is currently on version 3.3.1 as of 10/7/2020, it received this update on July 8th, 2020. Swift Playgrounds is developed by Apple and the apps target audience is anyone who wants to begin learning how to code. Swift Playgrounds is a free app but can only be accessed if you have a Mac or an iPad which can be inconvenient if you do not own one of those products. Swift Playgrounds is an app that adds a fun twist when it comes to learning or experimenting with code. This app has lessons on learning to code that go over the basics of coding or you can experiment with interactive puzzles and minigames that give you unique and fun coding exercises.

The app has a very modern look and fell to it. It has a mainly white color scheme that I enjoy and makes the app look professional. There are many little games that help teach coding but I do not personally see an elementary student being able to code with this or code at all honestly. This seems to be an app that would work best for middle schools students and older due to how complex coding can be. I actually used this app before in High School and it worked great with high school students! It never crashed or had any issues while I was playing around with the coding practices and it runs great. I enjoyed coding a game and being able to play the small mini game that you created and I think other people would enjoy that aspect as well especially if they love video games like I do! It is sad that this app is exclusive to iPads and Mac's since not everyone has access to these devices and this application is useful, I feel like it would do better if it was not an exclusive. I do recommend this app but not for an elementary classroom as I believe it would be hard and aggravating for young children to understand this content.

GoNoodle

GoNoodle is currently on version 3.3.0 as of October 7th, 2020, it received this update on September 4, 2020. GoNoodle is offered on iPhone and Android devices, it is also available on Apple TV devices. GoNoodle was developed by GoNoodle and the app originally released on May 30, 2018. The app is a collection of videos. The target audience is elementary students ages 5-12. Almost all of them are music videos, but they teach different things. Some teach popular dances/stretches to get kids up and moving. Others are more educational and teach the students useful things. This includes remembering the planets and their order, how to address an envelope, short grammar lessons, and healthy coping skills. It is geared for younger elementary students, but I believe that some middle school students would be interested in some of the dance videos.

The color scheme has an 80s to early 2000s theme. It reminds you of bowling alley carpet themes. The app itself is free and you don't need an account to access most of the content. There are some videos, such as the longer ones, that require a family account. Making an account is also free. Getting around the app is relatively easy. It has a similar design to YouTube with the different videos shown in different categories. There is a search bar if something specific needs to be found. They have different "channels" with different characters, for example, kids, adults, and animated characters. All of these are remarkably diverse especially for different languages. A new feature includes translating a lot of the videos to Spanish versions. Vamos! GoNoodle has its own separate channel for this.

I would recommend to use this app at home and as a teacher. At home, it can be used so that screen time can still healthy. They can still learn from it but also be active. I have a family member that works in a classroom. They use this app when the kids need a wiggle break. It is really good for students to get up and move around. GoNoodle provides a healthy and fun way to do that.

Homer

Homer is currently on version 9.0 as of October 7, 2020, it received this update on September 28th, 2020. Homer is available on iPhone and Android devices. Homer was developed by Homer and was originally created on November 15, 2017. It has a free trial that lasts for one month and then it is $9.99 per month or $59.99 per year. You have to make an account to even access anything on the app. It is for younger students still learning with reading and spelling or ages 2-6. To begin, it is based on your child's learning skills. You can add more than one child. The colors were mostly solid that remind you of building blocks. It seemed to have a few different things you could do like art, ABCs, a discover the world section, brain games, and a my pathway story. It kept crashing when you clicked on one thing and would take you back to the main screen. Sometimes the audio did load but not the screen.

When you did get to click on one thing, it would sound out the letter or word and have you tap on it, but I never made it to the end of any of the activities because it would go back to the main screen or the image would disappear. Most of what I found used animals in the stories and to read the stories. It appeared to have an option on the reading part to have it read or read it yourself. Both crashed in several stories. I spent about an hour and a half trying to get anything to work, but had no luck.

I wouldn't recommend this app. First, it has a subscription that could get costly. Second, the app crashes. As an adult, I was frustrated. I can only imagine how a younger child would react to it not working. And third, what I did manage to get through wouldn't keep a younger student's attention.

IXL Math

IXL is on version 6.1.0 as of October 7, 2020, IXL actually received this update on October 7th of 2020! IXL is available on iPhone and Android devices and is developed by IXL Learning. IXL Learning was first released on the app store on July 26, 2014. To start it is a large app and takes a bit to download. I read some of the reviews while waiting. Most of them weren't good and it only had a 2.9 rating. It says that its learning is personalized across K-12 subjects. This means that the audience is ages 5-18. IXL has lessons for math, language arts, science, social studies, and Spanish. I will focus on the math portion. When the app opens you are prompted to sign in or continue as a guest. Its math lessons range from pre-K to Calculus.

Its main screen is white with a green border and orange and blue text. The Counting Review for first grade had questions to count the objects that appeared on the screen. You would count and then click on the correct number out of 1-10. It switched it up a bit after a few questions and gave three choices and asked which was the correct showing of a certain number. After about ten questions before it says that you have reached your daily practice limit. You have to sign in as a member to continue. It does cost, but there are options for what you subscribe for. Core subjects cost $19.95 per month, Combo package is $115.95 per month, and each subject alone is $9.95 per month.

If you're looking for a good app to help with practice, maybe this app would be for you. If you don't have a lot of money, then this is a bad choice. It is priced higher than other apps that were reviewed. While doing the practice, it was very repetitive. I got bored easily, and a child would likely also get bored.

Khan Academy Kids

Khan Academy Kids is on version 3.3.1 as of October 7, 2020, it actually received this update on October 7th of 2020! Khan Academy Kids is available on iPhone and Android devices. Khan Academy Kids is developed by Khan academy and had been offered by Khan Academy and available on app stores since July 10, 2018. This is also a bigger app and takes some time to download. It is free to download and requires no subscription. It does ask for an email address to login. It has a teacher setting with lesson plans from Pre-K(age 2) to first grade (age 7). It has a white background with pastel colored cartoon animals. It allows you to add students to your class and assign them different levels based on the age range earlier. It has books and games that you can assign for each student. There are stories that have standards that it can follow. There are also videos. The video and books can include ABC practice, numbers, reading, and logic.

It allows you to preview the student page which is five animals that it has you move around and click on. It also allows you to switch to the student users that you list. The student page allows them to complete assignments but also play around the app. There is an option to draw/color and a lot of the reading parts revolve around games they can play to make it interesting. Getting around is easy on both accounts with little difficulty. On the students part, there is the main character that you can click on at any time for help. On the teaching part, you can search by different standards.

I would recommend Khan Academy Kids at home or if there is free time in class. I only recommend it for students, as its age range is extremely limited. If you do teach these younger

students, then maybe you could use it when finding reading pertaining to your lessons. The

search by standard is rather useful for that. Other than that, it is a fun way to promote reading at

home because of the game feature on the students page.