Evaluating Apps – Mini Checklist

Title: Duolingo

Evaluators: Kylie Brickey and LeRay Kious

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Have you played enough to know every aspect? • Did you try things that were wrong and/or unexpected	X		
Did the software crash?		X	
Was the content appropriate? Did it meet the user's needs?	X		Content was very appropriate. We started as beginners learning Spanish, and it was very easy to pick up a few basics. We feel students would easily be able to use this.
Were the screens appealing? • Color, items on screen, sounds	X		The screens were easy on the eyes. White and green, very fun to look at. There was even an owl character that made the app more engaging. The sounds were fun, too, it made it more fun when we got an answer correct.
Is it easy to navigate?	X		Easily organized. Clear instructions. It is very easy to learn, and it is

			really easy to know what to do next. It is structured to make learning easy. The buttons are very user friendly.
Is it easy to learn?	X		Clear instructions on what to do.
Does the user need Supervision to use		X	Appropriate content and easy to use. No supervision required.
If the App required a response, was it appropriate? (right or wrong)	X		The app asks you to translate phrases, click on the correct picture of a phrase, and even speak some of the language you are learning into the microphone. These responses are appropriate for learning a new language.
Were there bells and whistles? • If so, do they enhance instead of detract? • If not, should there be?	X		We are saying yes just because this app does do more than just teach a new language. There are many languages to pick from, and this app makes learning

			the information fun because instead of having tests and quizzes, everything is organized into levels. It also has "streaks" to show how many days in a row you have met your learning goal. These bells and whistles added to the app.
Did you like using the App?	X		Yes! It was fun and interactive and we felt like we were learning.
What was the cost? • Was there a "lite" version ◦ If so, was it enough			Duolingo Plus costs $9.99 a month and comes with these features: Fun progress quizzes, no ads, unlimited health, monthly streak repair, and the ability to save lessons for offline usage. The lite version is free. You can also have a free 7 day trial of Duolingo Plus. We feel that the lite version was enough. You still get to go through all the levels and learn new content. We feel

			that if your goal is just to learn a new language, then the lite version is fine. If you want to participate in the "game" side of the app, then the Plus version may be for you.
Were there in-app purchases? • If so, what were the additional costs?	X		You could upgrade to Duolingo plus in the app, and you could buy "power-ups" that helped you if you wanted to play the game.
How does it compare to other apps that do the same?			This app is very interactive. It lets the user choose the answers and learn by interacting with the app in that way. There are no lectures, videos, and lessons. The user simply learns by going through the levels. On other apps, we saw that they use more video/lecture types of lessons and do not feature the "game" side of things like Duolingo does.

			We think Duolingo would be better for our middle-level students.
Additional Comments			We thought this app was really cool. We both want to keep playing with it and learn more Spanish. We also thought that if we were in a school that had a lot of diversity in their first languages that this app might help to bridge the gap by allowing students to practice skills in whatever language they chose.

Developmentally Appropriate

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Child Development and Learning • Subject Matter appropriate? • Educational Focus? • Provides for Learning New Content?	X		We feel that it is subject matter appropriate in a second language class. The educational focus is definitely to learn a second language. It does provide for

• Follows Appropriate Teaching Sequence?			learning new content. It was very easy to learn some new Spanish words in our time playing with it.
Individual • Does it match individual's abilities? • Does it meet individual's needs?	X		The questions are simple and straightforward. Many of them even come with pictures to aid the user in picking the correct answer. We feel that almost any student could use this with ease.
Social/Cultural • Bias? • Commercialism Comments		X	NA