

# Digital Resources for Early Learning

The attached list provides some suggested digital resources for early learning. But this list is just the beginning; there's a world of digital media resources to choose from.



## Choosing Digital Resources

How do you choose digital resources for your students? Here are some ideas.

**Common Sense Media** (<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators>) provides product reviews, ratings, and professional services for educators interested in digital learning.

### Helpful Guidelines:

Here are some characteristics that we use to identify high-quality media resources. Few resources have it all, but we tend to place more trust in resources that meet several of these criteria.

**1. A specific educational concept is presented in a way that is appropriate for the child's age.** Educational concepts should be age-appropriate, and specific rather than abstract.

**2. Educational content is represented in multiple ways.** The media resource should represent educational concepts using more than one of the following: visuals, sound, spoken language, print text, and symbols.

**3. Vocabulary is introduced, defined, and used or shown in context.** This applies to all academic subjects, not just literacy. For example, science resources could include words for naming and describing scientific phenomena, concepts, or practices.

**4. The media resource encourages children to make connections between the educational content and their own real world experience.** For example, a character could address the viewer and ask, "The last time you saw raindrops on a window, what did they look like?"

**5. Children are encouraged to continue their exploration of educational content in the real world** beyond the video, game, or activity. Characters, voice over, or text explicitly encourage children to continue exploring educational content beyond and outside of the media resource. For example, "The next time you build with blocks, see how high you can build."





## Preschool Curricula

Resource	Subject	Description	Link to download
PEEP Science Curriculum	Science	3-week curriculum for color, plants, ramps, shadows, sound, and water	<a href="http://www.peepandthebigwideworld.com/en/educators/">http://www.peepandthebigwideworld.com/en/educators/</a>
Early Science with Nico and Nor	Science	3-unit curriculum for plants, ramps, and shadows with digital and hands-on activities. Includes a digital Teacher Guide.	<a href="http://first8studios.org">http://first8studios.org</a>
Early Math with Gracie and Friends	Math	Apps and activities for subitizing and equipartitioning	<a href="http://first8studios.org">http://first8studios.org</a>
Ready to Learn Home Study Parent Website	Math	Tips, video clips, and home activities designed for a Ready to Learn study with families. Topics include patterns, geometry, measurable attributes, and ordinal numbers.	<a href="http://readytolearn.edc.org/">http://readytolearn.edc.org/</a>

## Preschool Teacher Guides

Resource	Subject	Description	Link to download
Teacher's Guide: Ready to Learn Prekindergarten Transmedia Mathematics Study	Math	Videos, games, and classroom activities for a Ready to Learn study in PreK classrooms. Topics include counting; subitizing; identifying numerals; and recognizing, composing, and representing shapes.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2rMt6Z9">http://bit.ly/2rMt6Z9</a>
Teacher's Guide: Ready to Learn Preschool Media-Rich Literacy Study	Literacy	Videos, computer games, and hands-on activities for a Ready to Learn study in PreK classrooms. Focal topics are letter names, concepts of print, letter sounds, and reading comprehension.	<a href="http://bit.ly/2rM7JHz">http://bit.ly/2rM7JHz</a>
Teacher's Guide: Next Generation Preschool Science	Science	Apps (games, simulations, and science journals), videos, and hands-on activities for use in preschool classrooms to explore big ideas about plants, ramps, and shadows.	<a href="http://first8studios.org/ni-coandnor/guide/">http://first8studios.org/ni-coandnor/guide/</a>

## Videos

Resource	Subject	Description	Link to download
Peg+Cat The Play Date Problem	Math	Patterns	<a href="http://readytolearn.edc.org/content/full-video-play-date-problem">http://readytolearn.edc.org/content/full-video-play-date-problem</a>
Peg+Cat The Beethoven Problem	Math	Patterns	<a href="http://readytolearn.edc.org/content/full-video-beethoven-problem">http://readytolearn.edc.org/content/full-video-beethoven-problem</a>
Sid the Science Kid: The Magnification Observation	Science	Magnification	<a href="http://pbskids.org/video/">http://pbskids.org/video/</a> Select the Sid the Science Kid icon, then More Videos, then The Magnification Observation
Sid the Science Kid: The Snack Chart	Science	Charts	<a href="http://pbskids.org/video/">http://pbskids.org/video/</a> Select the Sid the Science Kid icon, then More Videos, then The Snack Chart

## Apps

Resource	Cost	Subject	Description	Link to download	Age Range
Sid's Science Fair	\$0.99	Science, some math	Classification, pattern identification, charting, sequencing	<a href="http://pbskids.org/apps/sids-science-fair.html">http://pbskids.org/apps/sids-science-fair.html</a>	3-6
PBS Kids Measure Up!	Free	Math	Games and videos on height and length, capacity, and weight.	<a href="http://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-measure-up.html">http://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-measure-up.html</a>	3-5
Dinosaur Train Jurassic Junior	Free	Math	Includes shape puzzles, pan balances, sorting, and counting. Bilingual.	<a href="http://pbskids.org/apps/dinosaur-train-jurassic-jr.html">http://pbskids.org/apps/dinosaur-train-jurassic-jr.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Coconut Star	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; explore how changing different variables affects movement	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/coconutstar.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/coconutstar.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Wonder Farm	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; explore how different variables affect plant growth over time	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/wonderfarm.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/wonderfarm.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Shadow Play	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; explore what makes different shadows and what makes shadows change	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/shadowplay.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/shadowplay.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Plants Journal*	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; record observations and track plant growth (photos with measurements)	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/plantsjournal.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/plantsjournal.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Ramps Journal*	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; record, predict and compare how objects move during hands-on investigations	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/rampsjournal.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/rampsjournal.html</a>	PreK
Nico & Nor Shadows Journal*	Free	Science	Science concepts and skills; document and review how shadows change	<a href="http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/shadowsjournal.html">http://first8studios.org/nicoandnor/shadowsjournal.html</a>	PreK
Gracie & Friends Map Adventures	Free	Science	Spatial concepts and reasoning; navigate maps and explore landscapes	<a href="http://first8studios.org/gracieandfriends/mapadventures.html">http://first8studios.org/gracieandfriends/mapadventures.html</a>	PreK

\* This app should be used with adult guidance for maximal impact

## Online Games

Resource	Subject	Description	Link	Age Range
Peg + Cat Chicken Dance	Math	Patterns	<a href="http://pbskids.org/peg/games/chicken-dance">http://pbskids.org/peg/games/chicken-dance</a>	3-7
Peg + Cat Magical Shape Hunt	Math	3D shapes (cube, sphere, cylinder)	<a href="http://pbskids.org/peg/games/magical-shape-hunt">http://pbskids.org/peg/games/magical-shape-hunt</a>	3-7
Curious George Ribbit	Math	Addition/subtraction	<a href="http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/busyday/frogs/">http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/busyday/frogs/</a>	3-5
Cat in the Hat Weather Transformer*	Science	Weather	<a href="http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/weather-transformer">http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/weather-transformer</a>	3-5
Cat in the Hat Flower Finder	Science	Plants	<a href="http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/flower-finder">http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/flower-finder</a>	3-5

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