

# Searching for Special Needs Apps

I am often asked how to sort through the ever growing sea of apps. Most people use the iTunes App Store. However, I don't think that using iTunes is the best way to go about discovering new apps. Rather, iTunes is the place you go to make a purchase AFTER you have found the specific app you want. **For people who are interested in finding new apps I suggest using Google and third-party websites or blogs.** It's much easier to look through a curated list compiled by someone else than to mine the iTunes App Store.

## Google Search tips:

Use the "More" drop down menu and select "Apps" to only show results that are

apps. You can also add

*site:itunes.apple.com* to the end of

your search term if you do not want to see

results for the Android platform. This will make Google search only the iTunes website for

results. It's better than using the search engine in iTunes because Google searches both the app

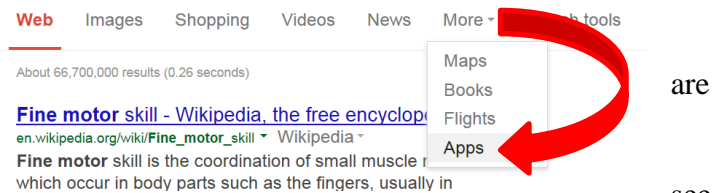
name and description. It's also good to try variations of your search term and cycle through the

keywords "app" "iphone" "ipad" and "idevice". When you find a specific app you are interested

in run a search with the app name and add "review" so you can see what others have to say about

it. Also try searching for the app name and using Google video search. **Watching a video of an**

**app is one of the best ways to help you decide if the app is worth purchasing.**



## Brain Injury Services Assistive Technology Diigo Group

I keep track of my resources using Diigo, a social bookmarking site. My bookmarks are available for everyone to see and search through. You can look at my bookmarks by tags (e.g. daily living) or you can perform a search. You can visit the site here: <https://groups.diigo.com/group/BIS-AT>

## Special Needs App Search Engines:

This website has built a search engine with lots of filters and tons of information. It actually searches the iTunes store in realtime, so everything is completely up-to-date. You can also search app lists and make your own lists. It's a wonderful resource that I highly recommend trying out!

<http://bridgingapps.org/screen/>

The Tools for Life Database - Our Favorite Apps for Living, Learning, Working and Playing is maintained by Georgia Tech. They describe the database as "a unique tool that will allow you to search for apps by disability or multiple disabilities as well as by price ranges and device types. Every app housed in this database has been used and/ or tested by one or more members of the Tools for Life team along with many of our peers from across the country."

<http://www.gatfl.org/favorite-search.php>

## Brain Injury Specific App Reviews

ID 4 the Web has created a Making Cognitive Connections AppReviews site to establish a centralized location for individuals with cognitive challenges and professionals who work with

them to post reviews of apps they find particularly useful for work, home, and school. It is a moderated review site. Registered users can add app listings and post reviews. Guests may only read existing reviews and post comments.

<http://id4theweb.com/appreviews.php>

### **Websites for Apps:**

There are also tons of people who have done the work for you already. While searching on your own can unearth some surprise gems, chances are someone else has already compiled a list of generally well-known apps that could save you lots of time. The following websites are good places to go for reviews, lists, and general information regarding apps. Some of them have RSS feeds or email lists you can subscribe to in order to keep updated!

<http://otswithapps.wordpress.com/>

<http://appadvice.com/appguides>

[http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library\\_special\\_needs\\_apps.html](http://www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com/main/library_special_needs_apps.html)

<http://techinspecial.com/appy/>

<http://a4cwsn.com/>

<http://www.therapyapp411.com/>

<http://momswithapps.com/>

<http://www.iautism.info/en/>

<http://apphappy.posterous.com/>

<http://www.famigo.com/>

### **Apps for Apps**

Lastly, there are actually apps for finding more apps. Some of the ones you might want to explore are:

Autism Apps: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/autism-apps/id441600681?mt=8>

Appsfire Deals: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/app-deals-daily-free-apps/id418295945?mt=8>

AppGrooves: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id423085882?mt=8>

Appsmart: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/appsmart/id372948567?mt=8>

I hope this helps you in your quest for discovering new apps! If you have questions you can find me at [spickford@braininjurysvcs.org](mailto:spickford@braininjurysvcs.org)