

# Top 5 Game Apps for Children with Autism

By Dawn O'Brien

## 1. Emotions and Feelings – by Touch Autism.com Android \$3.07

Most children with Autism have a hard time recognizing facial expressions and emotions of others. This app uses clear, simple illustrations to teach your child what various feelings look like and how to identify them. I love that this app uses Social Story to help walk the child through the emotions of the day. I just love this app! Every parent I talk to that has used this app thinks it's amazing. We highly recommend this one. We give it 5 Squirrels!

## 2. Fruit Ninja – Android, iPad and iPhone Free

Do you love Chopping, blasting and watching fruit explode? Then this app is for you! Quick fast action, 6 super fun mini games and great graphics make this an engaging game for kiddos of all ages. This game is great for working on hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. It moves fast enough to keep their focus without wearing them out. Life happens, blast some fruit and become a Fruit Ninja! This one now lives on my phone. We give it 4 Squirrels!

## 3. Angry Birds – by Rovio Entertainment Corporation Android, iPad and iPhone Free

This game has been around for a while but it doesn't change how much fun it is. No matter what version your child plays they are going to love it. Great graphics, fun sounds and of course those taunting pigs! Why is this game so awesome? The nature of Angry Birds teaches hand-eye coordination, how to figure out the right angle and pushes kids out of their comfort zones. Our ASD kids like things to be structured and predictable, Angry Birds shows them that it's ok to go with the flow and let those birds fly. We give it 4 Squirrels!

## 4. Mine Craft – by Mojang Android, iPad and iPhone \$9.99

One of the most popular games of all time Mine Craft sends you into a random world with little to no guidance and instruction. Your child can either play alone or play the multiplayer option. For us we find the multiplayer the better option it teaches kids to work as a team by learning to plan, gather items and build as a team. They need to learn how to cooperate with others to get tasks done. Mine Craft is actually fun to play and to look at. The colours, graphics and player use is smooth and strangely soothing. Best of all you can hop on and play with your child. This game is here to stay. Take our advice and set an alarm or an egg timer, time slips away quickly while playing Mine Craft. We give the app 4.5 Squirrels!

## 5. Touch and Speak – by Indigo Kids. Android, iPad and iPhone Free

This app is an amazing tool for speech development and communication. Super colourful, easy to use and offers lots of different styles of learning games. It's very much like a one stop shop for speech and sound games. Has voice to text and other tools to promote interaction. The games are structured for Children of all ages and abilities. Some of the games would go a long way to help adults with speech issues. The only downfall with this game is it was difficult to download. I had to uninstall it 3 times before it worked. Because of this we give it 3 Squirrels!

Hope this list helps you find some new games (or reminds you of some old ones) to introduce to your child. Have fun and never forget to play with your Kids!