APPS FOR LOW VISION 2022

ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS

Apple accessibility: https://support.apple.com/accessibility, www.applevis.com

Chromebook: https://www.controlaltachieve.com/2016/10/special-needs-extensions.html?m=1

Android accessibility: https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6006564?hl=en

COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS: (note taking, scanning, completing worksheets)

Notability (iOS): Take notes, annotate PDF's, complete worksheets, markup photos, record lectures, provide audio feedback and more. Take notes directly on PDF slides. Teachers can email a worksheet and have the student complete and return by email. Can create folders/dividers to organize and save work.

OneNote (Microsoft, Android): free app like Notability

Audionote (iOS, Mac, Windows, Android): Notes linked to voice recordings (instant seek), automatically adapts to room size & volume. Automatic highlight and scroll with audio playback. Take notes directly on PDF slides. Organize notes by subject. Sync between devices (iCloud, Dropbox).

JoinMe (iOS, Android): Gives student direct access to white board or teacher's computer onto the student's tablet. Can enlarge size of presentation and screenshot to keep as notes. School buys "basic" version (about $10/month) and student downloads app for free.

Genius Scan (iOS, Android): Scan single or full documents with phone/tablet and create a PDF. Take a photo, app automatically recognizes the paper against the background, crops it, and cleans up the result. Upload PDF document to complete assignments.

BOOKS

Bookshare (www.bookshare.org): Huge online library (400,000 digital books) for people with print disabilities. Confirmation of low vision/ blindness, physical or learning disability by a professional (MD, OD, teacher) is required. Various formats are available (text to speech, digital braille, enlarged fonts). Free for US students (funded by Office of Special Ed Programs, US Dept of Ed). Nonstudents pay a nominal fee.

Bard Mobile (iOS, Android): Download books, magazines, music instruction and scores. Listen or read as braille books with Bluetooth-connected braille display. Enroll in National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress by calling 1-888-NLS-READ (1-888-657-7323) or online at https://www.loc.gov/thatallmayread

Dolphin Easy Reader: EasyReader is a FREE accessible reading app for readers with dyslexia, low vision or blindness. Download books and newspapers. Copy text from anywhere on your phone & hear it read back to you. Text/audio are perfectly synchronized.

Voice Dream Reader and Scanner (iOS, Android): Reading tool (text & audio sync, customizable font, VoiceOver support). Multiple navigation and annotation options. Formats supported: DAISY 3.0 text-only, DAISY 2.02 audio, DRM-free EPUB, PDF, Microsoft Word & PowerPoint, HTML, zipped MP3 files. Integrated with Bookshare & Gutenberg. Load files from Dropbox, Google Drive, iTunes.

KNFB reader (iOs, Android)**:** optical character recognition (OCR) reader for auditory access of printed material.

BUILDING SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE

4to24 (iOS, Google) Free for parents of children who are blind, have low vision, or deaf-blind with additional disabilities. Provides information, activities, and links to resources to inform about skills and experiences to build independence to prepare for successful employment & independent living as an adult. Self-paced modules include building social skills, literacy, technology, academics, and daily living skills. Youth 16 to 24 can access a version created specifically for a younger audience.

MOVIE THEATER, TV

Audio description: Narration supplementing movies and TV. Descriptions are spoken between dialog and sound effects. Provides context of on-screen action, facial expressions, text and other visual elements. Can enable a totally blind person to understand the story as well individual moments. Netflix, DirectTV & Amazon include audio descriptions on all original programs. Many movie theaters have descriptive audio headsets.

Greta (iOS, Android): Enables people with sight or hearing loss to experience fully accessible cinema (including foreign language subtitles & audio). It whispers audio descriptions or plays subtitles.

ACCESSIBILITY: NARRATING THE VISUAL ENVIRONMENT	
read short text and cursive, currency, description of scenes, facial recognition, colors	
Seeing AI (iOS): Free app that describes short text, documents, products, people, currency scenery, colors, handwriting and light levels. Scan barcodes to describe a product. Description of people (e.g. estimates person's age, facial expression). Available in multiple languages.	
Lookout by Google (Android): Similar app to Seeing AI. Same concept but limited. Can read barcodes, currency, objects, short text, document scan, and OCR.	
TapTapSee (iOS) (Android): Uses AI and human to interpret photographed objects/scenes verbally. Double-tap the screen to photograph any two- or three-dimensional object at any angle, and have it accurately identified within seconds. VoiceOver then narrates the findings.	
iDentifi (iOS): uses AI to recognize virtually any object, brand, color, facial expression, handwriting and text, and subsequently deliver an audible description of the images.	
BeSpecular (iOS) (Android): A photo, taken by the user, is sent (with a voice message/query) to their sighted community who respond with a voice or text message within minutes.	
ViaOpta Hello (iOS) (Android) (Windows): Face recognition and environment description. Identifies people, items and scenes. Available in 12 languages (English, German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Greek, Portuguese, Dutch, Italian and Hungarian).	
Envision AI (Android, iOS): Just like Seeing AI, but more languages. 14-day free trial with 10 free captures a month afterward. Subscription: 1 month $4.99, 6 months $24.99, Annual $33.99. Pairs with Google Glass2.	
Be My Eyes (iOS) (Android): Free app that connects blind and low vision people with sighted volunteers, company representatives for visual assistance through a live video call.	
Ballyland Magic App: Teaches young students essential skills and concepts for **VoiceOver** accessibility, Apple's built-in screen reader, while they are playing a fun game!, This new version offers additional features as well as improved interaction.	
Brighter and Bigger (iOS, Android): Enlarges text and allows it to be manipulated with regard to contrast, background, etc.	
NAVIGATION	
Microsoft Soundscape (iOS)**:** As the user walks, key points of interest get called out: roads, intersections, etc. Audio beacon can be placed on a point of interest (e.g., destination, return point, familiar landmark). Designed as background instruction to be used in conjunction with other apps.	
BlindSquare (iOS): Is a GPS app developed for the blind and visually impaired. It describes the environment, announces points of interest and street intersections during travel.	
Intersection Explorer (Android): Speaks the layout of streets and intersections in neighborhoods by touching and dragging finger around a map to create an understanding of an area before and during walking.	
Lazzus (iOS, Android): Creates auditory field of vision in real time, pointing out pedestrian crossings, street intersections, stairs, and businesses. Sources Google Places and Open Street Map and searches within a 100-meter radius, highlighting information on things that are near to the user. Converts text to speech.	
Community Signs (iOS): Teaches community/street/navigational signs and tracks progress with knowledge and retention.	
Moovit (iOS, Android): Integrates all forms of transport, including all modes of public transit, local bicycle services, ride-hailing (Uber / Lyft), scooters, car-sharing, carpooling, and more in real/live time.	
WAZE (iOS, Android): Navigation and route GPS, including live traffic updates.	
Compass° (iOS): A large-text simple compass used for directional orientation and navigation.	