

Using music technology

This resource is drawn from the musical activities booklet created by Sophie Dawson for our Partners at [The Children's Trust](#), after their recent Introductory Training Project. It was designed for care practitioners working with children and young people who have profound and multiple learning disabilities and complex health needs, and for whom music tech can be a great solution to physical restrictions to using instruments.

However these apps are definitely still relevant to music sessions with many different client groups, and will be a good way to keep sessions fresh and introduce some new sounds. Of course, not everyone will have explored music tech within their training projects with us. So if you'd like to find out more about using music tech in your sessions, [do get in touch](#) and we can provide some more advice to suit your setting's needs. If you've been using different music technology in your work, we'd love to hear about it. Let us know and we can share your ideas across our Partner Network.

Instrumental apps



ThumbJam

<https://www.thumbjam.com/>

This app has a variety of different instrumental sounds, all of which can be accessed by using light touch. This is great for participants who find it difficult to access some instruments, and gives them a wide variety of sounds to choose from.

Great for jamming along. If you use tuned instruments in your work, you may need to experiment with the different keys to find the one that fits best with your music-making.

Good for: confidence building, joint playing, music listening and awareness, cause and effect, sustained attention, fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination.



Bloom

<https://www.generativemusic.com/bloom.html>

This app uses touch sensitivity to create ambient music. This is great for relaxation and gives a clear auditory response to the lightest touch, combined with beautiful visuals.

This is great to use for relaxation in a group, especially if the iPad/phone/other device can be linked to a Bluetooth speaker for others to hear. You can also use an HDMI cable to link it to a smart TV so the visual impact is greater.

Good for: Cause and effect, relaxation, finger dexterity, visual tracking.

Apps that record and play back sound



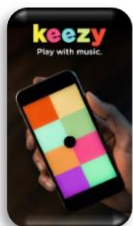
ISpeak

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/ispeak-button/id471583149>

This app acts like a switch. Just press and record your chosen sound.

Ideas: You could use this within a context of a song, with the participant pressing the switch when it is their turn. You could record their voice, an instrument, or a line of a song on to it.

Good for: Cause and effect, social and verbal interaction, listening and awareness of self.



Keezy

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/keezy-classic/id605855595>

Keezy works in a similar way by recording different parts on to the different squares. It is like having lots of switches in the same place.

Bear in mind this requires a certain amount of finger dexterity. You may need to decide whether your service users will be able to manage it themselves or if it is something you will need to lead on using the tech, alongside finding ways your group members can participate or interact with you through the process.

Ideas: You could use this by giving each participant a colour and recording their chosen instrument or vocalisation. Then play this back to the group as a composition that they have created by clicking on the different colours. If this can be linked to a bigger screen this will provide visual as well as auditory stimulation.

Good for: Cause and effect, social and verbal interaction, listening and awareness of self and others.