The Red Door Guide to Autism-Friendly apps for teaching and learning.

Many people with autism learn well when visuals and ICT are used and tablets can be wonderful educational tools for them. The use of apps builds their ICT skills, and can increase their independence and happiness. Whether it's for functional communication (in which case the device should be theirs and theirs alone, and have no other apps/ distracting things on it) or to boost and augment their learning. Many of these apps are free, and some of those that are more expensive may have a free trial available.

Teaching and learning at home can be difficult, but apps can provide a (sometimes free), neat, engaging way to support your child's learning at this time.

If you are using an android device, you can 'pin the screen' to ensure that the student can't exit the app and access something a bit less educational, and if you're using an iPhone or iPad, you can use the 'guided access' function to disable some of the buttons and keep them focused on the particular app you want to use!

Functional Communication:

largely picture exchange based apps to facilitate portable, adaptable and quick functional communication. Each one is slightly different and it's best to read the manual/ guide before downloading to see what might work best for your specific learner.

Grace App

PECS stage IV + I

Picture Can Talk

ProloQuo2Go

Speak All

So Much 2 Say

DynaVox

Clicker Communicator

Go Talk Now

Grid Player

Sono flex

Text Based Functional Communication: For students with an interest in spelling, reading and typing who may not be able to make all their requests or comments easily understandable some of these could scaffold their speech and develop their literacy skills also.	Flip Writer Speak it! Proloquo4Text Abilipad Verbally Rocket Keys Quick Type AAC
Language Skill building: These Apps can help children whose language is emerging to develop their language skills.	Colourful Semantics See Touch Learn Widgit Vocab Bitsboard Preschool Symbols2Write Auditory Memory Lingraphica TalkPath Therapy Aacorn Toddler Flashcards HD
Visual Schedules/ Supports: To support the students' understanding of what is coming, and set them up for success for the day ahead. Predictability and structure are key, and visual supports help our students to have more trust and confidence in the world around them.	iPrompts First Then Picture Me Calm FTVS HD Choicewrks ASD tools

Social Stories, Photo Stories, Own Narratives: Looking at photographs and images of past activities, family members and themselves can be a pleasureable and comforting activity for many of our students. These Apps could be used to build personalised social stories to help them cope, or simply to make a little book of pictures of the loved ones they won't get to see for a while.	My Story Book Creator Click N Talk My pictures Talk Our Story Book Creator Little Story Creator Scene and Heard Model Me Going Places
Organisational Skills (Mind Mapping)	Kidspiration Idea Sketch Popplet
Turn Taking	Tic Tac Toe Memory Matches 2
Sensory and Early Skills Apps: Cause and Effect, pointing, dragging, building ICT skills.	Peekaboo Farm Sensory Room Finger Paint with Sound Somantics Real Tickles DodgeDot Draw with Stars I love Fireworks Animals for Toddlers Kids doodle
Phonics and Literacy	Phonics Genius

	Macrophonics
	Oxford Owl (website offering tablet compatible Oxford Reading Tree books)
	Mee Genius
	Nosy Crow
Writing/ Typing	Abilipad
Numeracy	Choose it! Numeracy
	Khan Academy
	Mathboard
	Maths age 3-5
	Princess Lila's Preschool Learning Games
Early Mathematical Activities	Smart Baby shapes Lite
	Match it Up
	Sort it Out
Music	Dropophone
	Dance Pet Piano

Further Reading:

Using Apple Technology to Support Students With Sensory and Learning Difficulties:

https://www.apple.com/education/docs/L419373A-US_L419373A_AppleTechDisabilities.pdf