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Kindergarten  
Letter & Word Recognition, Phonics



CCLS Standards: ELA Print Concepts, Phonological Awareness

**Word Wagon HD** - by Duck Duck Moose by Duck Duck Moose, Inc. \$1.99  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-wagon-hd-by-duck-duck/id436716368?mt=8>

This entertaining app teaches letters, phonics and spelling of over 100 words for ages 2-7. It is most appropriate for the beginning of kindergarten as an introductory app and is also appropriate for special needs children. Students play with Mozzarella the Mouse and choose from his toy collection which words to spell. There are four skill levels: letters (matching), phonics and two levels of spelling with words from 4 to 6 letters long. Rewards are earned in the form of stickers and stars; progress is tracked in a sticker sight word book. In the menu, there are categories of words including foods, things at home, animals, number and color words or all words can be mixed. There is also an option to switch from uppercase to lowercase and turn the music off if desired. This is a nice introductory app for teaching letters, matching, letter sounds and building sight words, all important skills for early reading development.

My kindergarten students enjoy this app working alone or in pairs. The different skill levels are helpful for matching the activity to each students' phonics and spelling needs. The app is not overly busy with too many choices or activities so it is best suited to younger kindergarteners or preschool students. When the program reads the completed words, it segments the words orally and visually and then blends together the phonemes. This is good phonemic segmentation for beginning readers, they can hear and see the word being blended. My young students need variety in their app choices so, having several alternatives for letters, phonics practice, vocabulary and sight word recognition is important to keep their minds actively engaged. The student or teacher can go back to the sticker book to look at progress (total words spelled) at any time. After students have earned enough stars they can use them to complete a constellation activity. Some students still approach the spelling by just dragging random letters to see which ones eventually match but with some guidance they are able to practice the phonics skills that were intended. Duck Duck Moose has numerous apps for preschool and kindergarten including Park Math, Fish School, Draw & Tell and many more.