# Info Exchange Magazine

## Apps Alert No. 10

### 31 July 2013

*Free* or *Lite* indicates that the app is free today. Some apps may be for Android devices, as well as for iPads.
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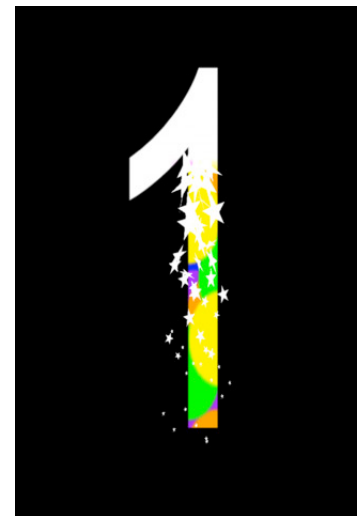florencelonghorn@gmail.com
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**Unusually, this week I have a selection of apps that are from the same developer, Richard Hatch.**

I discovered the shapes, alphabet and numbers apps a while ago and love them. He does not design for special needs so there is not that big addition of costs that always seems to be hung on so called 'specially designed apps' from big companies. Richard built the apps by regarding what his young son needed, so, intuitively, he has built in all the items we know catch attention at any level.

The magic is there with hide and reveal, clarity of colours, unusual sounds, focus grabbers such as trailing stars at a fingertip, black background, clear visual contrast and so modern and trendy in design

Here is what Richard says about his apps:

'I wrote these for my son who was 18 months old. It's primarily aimed at children under 5 years old. (Hopefully you and your child enjoy it too :) The idea was to give children something where they can follow shapes with their finger.
I thought it would help them with coordination and recognizing the shape.'

## Touch Follows Free

Richard also offers a free app 'Touch Follow Free' so the apps can be tested before purchasing. No buying of a pig in a poke! How considerate!

## Baby Discover Apps (mainly Free)

Ignore the word 'baby' as these are a set of very clear, still images, in a selection of themes to suit everyone.
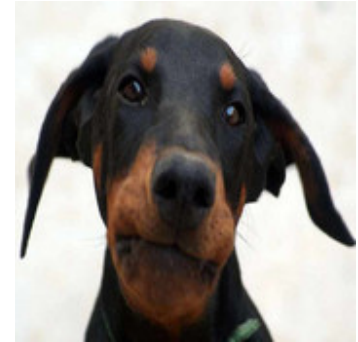
They cover:

- baby discover images
- baby discover animals
- baby discover cats
- baby discover dogs
- baby discover birds
- baby discover aquatic
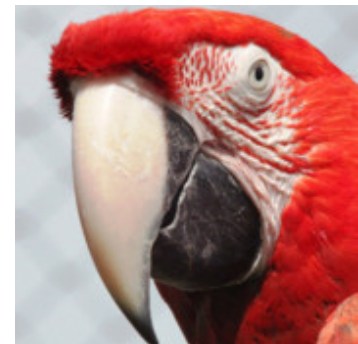
## Babies Discover Images

The screen is white. Just touch part of the screen and a part of a clear image is displayed. For example, melted chocolate, a brick or rough carpet appear. Move a finger around the screen and all is revealed. As the finger is dragged, little stars appear on the screen and when it is clear and completed, there is a funny noise or sounds of excitement. The image then changes. There are many images but, as far as I can see, they come in a fixed pattern.

The textured images are very realistic in this app and I would have a real brick or melted chocolate, for example, to transfer seeing and touching an object in real life, and visa versa. There are lots of images - great for practicing a new skill.

Repetition is the friend of the brain! The only criticism is that I would like to control timing of items on screen.

## Category
Hide and reveal, object permanence, groupings, jigsaw puzzle skills.
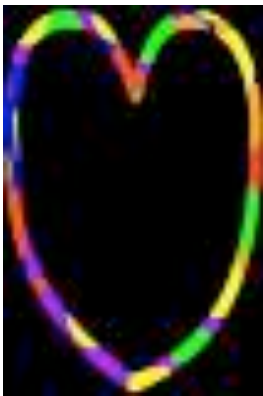
## Tablet skills
Using the whole screen, finger drag, wait and see, playing a solo game.

### Baby Moving Shapes

Again, a simple interface so that the images are immediate and effective, with movements to attract attention. There are many clear, moving images that emerge from the blank page when cleaned/swiped with a finger. This is a good second stage for the learner who has done well with the still images. Having said that, very special learners may buck the system and do exactly the opposite. Difference rules okay!
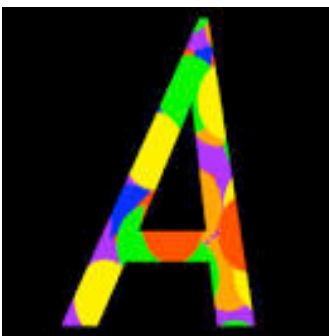
### Touch Follow Numbers

### Touch Follow Shapes

### Touch Follow Alphabet

These are for the learners starting on the road to learning along more abstract themes such as alphabet, numbers and shapes.

They are just as exciting in concept, with initial attention grabbers such as:

❖ the black screen,

❖ moving vivid colours as a finger traces,

❖ a chirpy twang on a guitar when complete,

❖  trailing stars as a finger traces a shape.