# iPad Apps Accessible for Totally Blind Students with Complex Learning Needs

The apps listed below will be very beneficial for CVI students in Phase 1, who frequently access information through the auditory channel.

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## Bluetooth Switch Interfaces

* APPlicator: <https://www.inclusivetlc.com/applicator>
* Blue2: <https://www.ablenetinc.com/blue2-bluetooth-switch/>
* ISwitch: <https://www.inclusivetlc.com/iswitch>
* Others

## CVI Apps

Many CVI apps are available, some of them are free. Do a Google search on CVI Apps. Almost all the apps on these lists require vision.

## Monarch Reader & Tar Heel Gameplay

Monarch Reader is a collection of free, easy to read books that are switch accessible.

Tar Heel Gameplay is a collection of free, accessible games that are switch accessible.

It can take some time to research books on Monarch Reader where the visual content of the material is not essential. <https://www.monarchreader.com/> <https://tarheelgameplay.org/>

## Partner-Assisted Auditory Scanning

This technique may be used before there is an established method of instruction or communication and then gradually reduced.

## Switch Accessible Apps

Do a Google search for iPad apps which have been developed for switch access, most of the lists that I have been able to locate on the Internet are not very current. Almost all the apps on these lists require vision and are not accessible for totally blind students with complex learning needs.

## Tactualizing the iPad

When iOS switch access is not a feasible option place tactual items on the iPad screen, such as on a left or right arrow that remains in a consistent location. Use the Feel and Peel Stickers from the APH, Catalog Number 1-08843-00. Another method is to use iOS Switch Control to create Recipes, see the end of this document.

## Switch Accessible Apps

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Counting Songs Bundle | Contains Counting Songs 1 and Counting Songs 2 Bundle. The “Five” series from Inclusive Technologies provides meaningful accessible content for totally blind children accessing these activities with a switch interface.  [http://www.inclusive.co.uk.apps](http://www.inclusive.co.uk.apps/) | Each “Five” app has a Song, an Activity 1 Counting Up, and an Activity 2 Counting Along.  Purchase the Counting Songs Bundle and you will get Counting Songs 1 and 2, which will be 10 songs total. |
| PixWriter | This is the only accessible writing app that provides errorless writing activities for totally blind children with complex learning needs.  <https://www.attainmentcompany.com/pixwriter-software> | Add a student with two switch access enabled.  Create a grid with 64 buttons so that 4 rows will be available.  When creating activities the activities need to be developed with switch access off. |
| RadSounds Cause/Effect App | R. J. Cooper  <http://www.rjcooper.com/> | Cause/effect music program for special needs learners. The playlist can be customized, or new music can be placed onto your iPad. Two switch access. |
| SoundingBoard | AbleNet  [www.ablenetic.com](http://www.ablenetic.com/) | SoundingBoard is a free app that can be used to develop classroom learning activities. SoundingBoard activities can be developed to enable access to Alexa/Google Assistant. |

## Apps Accessible Using iOS Switch Control

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| Breath Music | GroovTube  <http://www.groovtube.nl/> | Breath Music is an app for GroovTube Breath Controller device, but this app is also completely accessible for totally blind students using switches |
| Bus HD | Duck Duck Moose  <http://www.duckduckmoose.com/>  This app is free, Duck Duck Moose is part of the Khan Academy. | This is a good app to place tactual markers on the left and right button. Or develop an iOS Switch Control Recipe. |
| I Hear Ewe | Claireware Software  <http://claireware.com/> | I Hear Ewe teaches preschool children animal names and their sounds. When a specific animal icon is selected the name of the animal is announced and a recording of the animal’s natural sound is played |
| I Like Books | 37 Picture Books in One App  [I Like Books](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/i-like-books-37-picture-books-for-kids-in-1-app/id460795092) | This is a good app to place tactual markers on the left and right button. Or create an iOS Switch Control Recipe. |
| Old Mac HD | Duck Duck Moose  <http://www.duckduckmoose.com/>  This app is free, through the Khan Academy | This is a good app to place tactual markers on the left and right button. Or create an iOS Switch Control Recipe. |
| Sound Box | Cognable  <http://soundbox.cognable.com/> | Developmental touch skills app, made for individuals with complex needs. |
| SoundTouch 1 & 2 | [SoundTouch 1](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sound-touch/id348094440?mt=8)  [SoundTouch 2](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sound-touch-2/id504519249?mt=8) | Descriptions of animals, wild animals, birds, vehicles, musical instruments, nature, weather, professions and household items. |
| What’s That Sound: Learning to Listen to and Identify Sounds | Different Road to Learning  <http://www.difflearn.com/> | Auditory discrimination and processing skills. Students match objects and their associated sounds. |

## AAC Apps

There are many dedicated AAC devices. The following is a list of AAC apps available on the iPad or other platforms. There may be others not on this list.

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| Cough Drop | <https://www.mycoughdrop.com/> | Full-featured, customizable AAC app. Switch access, speech output.  Available across all platforms |
| Go Talk NOW  Go Talk Everywhere | Attainment <http://www.attainmentcompany.com/gotalk-now> | Full-featured, customizable AAC app. Switch access, speech output. Go Talk Now is available for the iPad. Go Talk Everywhere is available across all platforms. |
| Proloquo2Go | <http://www.assistiveware.com/product/proloquo2go> | Full-featured, customizable AAC app. Switch access, speech output. Available for the iPad and iPhone. |
| Talk Suite Pro | [Talk Suite Pro](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/talk-suite-pro-2-0/id1079239198) | Full-featured, customizable AAC app. Switch access, speech output. Available for the iPad and iPhone. |

## Switch Progression Framework for Blind Students with Complex Learning Needs

There are only a very few switch apps accessible for totally blind students with complex learning needs, so it can be difficult to develop a switch progression plan. Accessible software for this population group is the most underserved population. And often when software says that it is for the visually impaired it frequently only references low vision students.

Google “Switch Progression Road Map” for more information on switch progression.

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| --- | --- |
| Cause and Effect  Single Switch | Breath Music, Rad Sounds, Sound Box |
| Using Two Switches to Navigate Basic Stories | Bus HD, Counting Songs Bundle, I Like Books, Old MacDonald, Monarch Reader, Tar Heel Gameplay |
| Using Two Switches to Navigate and Select Items | I Hear Ewe, Sound Touch 1 & 2, Sounding Board, What’s That Sound |
| Errorless Writing Activities | PixWriter |
| AAC | Dedicated AAC devices, Cough Drop, Go Talk Now, Go Talk Everywhere, Proloquo2Go, Talk Suite Pro, others |

## iOS Switch Control

1. Switch Control: Turn on or have shortcut enabled
2. Switch Control: Configure two switches. Before configuring have the switch content of switch 1 set to Spacebar and the switch content of switch 2 set to Enter. (Software that is designed for switch access uses this key content.)
3. Set switch 1 to “Move to Next Item.”
4. Set switch 2 to “Select”
5. Scanning Style: Manual
6. Tap Behavior: Always tap
7. Gliding Cursor: Single, set it at fastest speed, it’s less annoying
8. Sound Effects: On
9. Speech: On
10. Group Items: Off

## Gliding Cursor Issue

Sometimes iOS Switch Control will default to having the Gliding Cursor Active. This is completely inaccessible for totally blind students. The only way to switch this back is to use the switch interface itself and navigate to Switch Control. Then navigate to and select Item Mode. I have been advocating with Apple to remedy this and provide an option to turn the Gliding Cursor off.

## iOS Switch Control Recipes

Bus HD is a great place to start when creating iOS Switch Control Recipes. This program requires only a single tap on the right arrow to be accessible.

1. Open Bus HD and place a sticky note on the right arrow.
2. Minimize or close Bus HD and open Switch Control.
3. Go to Recipes and select Create New Recipe.
4. Name this Recipe Bus HD and select Assign a Switch.
5. Select Custom Action, which will be a single tap on the location of the sticky note placed on the screen. It will be necessary to hide the controls to tap on the correct location.
6. Go to Switch Control, Launch Recipe, and select the Bus HD recipe.
7. When not using Bus HD or any other program that requires a Recipe go back to Recipes and select None.