

Top 5 Holiday Apps for MDCC Students

School holidays are close, very close. This means extended periods of time with your children at home are fast approaching. As December hits, you may be wondering what activities you can plan for your child over this break. We have over the past few years come to be very conscious of 'screen time' as many recommend limited use of devices for children, favouring physical outdoor activities.

While I support this recommendation, there is an opportunity for screen time to be used in a beneficial manner. Many apps nowadays are promoted with an educational focus, developing and extended skills of people young and old. This brings me to the focus of this post, to give you my top five recommendations for holiday apps*:



1. **Vocabulary Builder from Magoosh.** This app aims to build your vocabulary. Through the guise of a game, Magoosh gives you a new word quite often which you have never come across and asks you to select the definition. It will allow you to repeat three times to master it. Users move up levels as they progress. This is both a great way to expand vocabulary and also create an awareness of how to use words correctly.

2. **Dragon Box.** Dragon Box offers a range of apps for your child. Apps are categorised by age, allowing you to purchase specifically for your child. Through gaming, the app aims to engage users in experimentation and play in mathematics.



3. **Duolingo.** This app uses images to support the translation of common words. Simply select the language you wish to focus on and activities will be provided for you. As you progress through the levels, the activities increase in complexity.

4. **Strava.** Strava is recommended by Headspace as a useful wellbeing app for teenagers. It measures the distance and time of exercise combining the physical with the digital. This app is great for goal setting and positive reinforcement of achievement. A GPS component also maps the course which was taken and totals distance and time over extended periods.



5. **TED** talks are inspiring talks given by a wide range of individuals. This app takes you beyond television to experts in a number of fields make short fascinating talks which are accessible to many ages. Learn about different theories, occupations, challenging ideas and perceptions of our world in a click.



These are just five useful apps which are out there for your child (or yourself) to use. [Podcasts](#) and [Ebooks](#) are another great way to use screen time. Check out your device's App Store or Google Play to download these. Why not try one out this summer break and involve the whole family.

- Bianca Fonte

*charges may apply to some of the apps