



Free apps for school closures

	<p>Go Explore from CBeebies</p> <p>There is a wide range of BBC CBeebies apps. This one is focused on learning games, from phonics and geography to feelings and self-care, all based on the parent channel's shows and characters</p>
	<p>Teach Your Monster to Read</p> <p>This usually costs £4.99, but has been made free owing to school closures. The app asks your child to create a monster and then teach it to read – a great way of learning themselves.</p>
	<p>YouTube Kids</p> <p>YouTube has worked hard to make its official children's app something parents can trust. It includes a dedicated learning category collecting great videos about science, nature, space and other topics.</p>
	<p>Scratch Jr</p> <p>Scratch is the programming environment that a lot of children will be familiar with already from school. Scratch Jr is an app version designed for five to seven-year-olds, although older children can also have fun with it. It uses coding blocks to create programs for games, animation, music and other creative tasks.</p>
	<p>Swift Playgrounds</p> <p>Swift is Apple's own programming language, and Swift Playgrounds is its app for teaching people how to use it. It's for adults as well as children, but it's certainly accessible for the latter, with its lessons presented as coding puzzles that will give people the skills needed to start making their own apps and games. It's on Apple's iPad, but not (yet) its iPhone.</p>