How to Add Value to Learning with Educational Maths Apps?

Educational maths apps can offer the opportunity for personalised learning that can support young children’s maths development. Here are five key questions to ask when choosing if and when to use educational maths apps with your children.

01 Does the app include the maths skills you would like your children to focus on? (e.g., counting, pattern recognition, addition) and is it aligned with their current maths skills (e.g., the app is not too easy, or difficult)?

02 Do your children have the language skills to understand the instructions and maths content included in the app, or do they need additional support to use the app?

03 Can the app be meaningfully integrated into a well-rounded maths curriculum, which includes both formal and informal learning opportunities for maths?

04 Does the app include feedback, which is motivational (e.g., “You did it!” or “Great job!”) and explanatory (e.g., explaining why an answer is correct or incorrect)? Apps that include these design features have been shown to boost learning.

05 Does the app tailor the maths content to your children’s personalised learning journey? Apps can do this through an initial assessment, or where you can pre-select maths topics. Apps can also make the content easier or harder depending on how well your child is progressing.

If you would like to know more about how to select an educational maths app or what features to look out for, scan the QR code to check out our video-explainer and full research report on our website.

You can also contact Dr Laura Outhwaite at l.outhwaite@ucl.ac.uk