ADDITUDE

The ADHD Guide to Mobile Apps & Digital Tools

100+ recommended tools to improve productivity, organization, memory, sleep, creativity, and school skills.



ADDITUDE Expert eBook

A trusted source of advice and information for families touched by attention-deficit disorder—and a voice of inspiration to help people with ADHD find success at home, at school, and on the job.

additudemag.com/shop

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The ADHD Guide to Mobile Apps & Digital Tools

100+ recommended tools to improve productivity, organization, memory, sleep, creativity, and school skills.

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Introduction

The ADDitude Guide to Mobile Apps & Software for ADHD Minds

Technology is the great equalizer. In this era of the smartphone, that is especially true. Multiply that by five for anyone with ADHD. Mobile apps, if chosen carefully and used religiously, can compensate for challenging symptoms ranging from organizational deficits to working memory problems to sleep challenges. The promise of technology is great: To put anyone with ADHD on a level playing field with the neurotypical world.

Of course, reality often falls short of that lofty goal. The mobile app market boasts more than 3 million live products today, but the vast majority of these are not worth your time or money. The trick is sifting through myriad bells and whistles to find the tools that will *actually work for you*. And that is why the *ADDitude* editors have carefully combed through expert endorsements, reader recommendations, and our own magazine reviews to bring you 100 mobile apps that help real people manage their real, daily symptoms of ADHD.

We've organized the apps in this eBook according to common ADHD hot spots: time management, sleep difficulties, focus and attention, and more. Overwhelmed by your family's complex calendar? Try Cozi. Guilty of mindlessly browsing the Internet at work? Try SelfControl. Struggling to turn off your brain off at night? Try Sleep Cycle. No matter your challenges, these apps can augment any well-rounded treatment plan to help you get more done — and feel better doing it.

No app can cure your ADHD, that's for sure. But used consistently, the tools in this eBook have been known to increase productivity, calm, and happiness. And, for us, that's more than enough reason to try them.

—The editors of ADDitude

Chapter 1: Time Management and Productivity

Mobile apps designed to help you better prioritize tasks, track time, and get stuff done.

1. RescueTime

Time inventory — and accountability

Free for basic version; Premium: \$9/month, \$72/year

Android, Mac, PC, Linux

https://www.rescuetime.com

Before you can save time, you first need to take stock of it. The Rescue Time app does that without bias or judgment — it runs in the background of your computer or mobile device and quietly tracks how much time you spend working, reading the news, or mindlessly scrolling through Instagram. After rating each activity from "Very Distracting" to "Very Productive," you set goals and track your progress. An upgrade to the Premium version gets you a daily log, alerts, and can even enforce time limits on certain websites. No more "10 minutes" turning into two hours on Facebook!

"**Rescue Time** allows me to rate websites as distracting and not distracting. With the paid version, you can also enter 'Focus Time' mode where distracting sites are blocked without exception." — **h2orocks**

"RescueTime is helping me improve my work focus significantly. The paid version includes a way to record info on meetings, breaks, etc. And when you have been away from the computer, it prompts you to type in why." — DIrott

READER RECOMMENDATION

"The Amazon Echo
has been the best
time-management and
productivity gadget/app
that I have incorporated
this year. The whole family
can use it easily to set
alarms and timers, add
to-do items to a list, add
shopping list items, etc. I
only wish it would interface
with some other to-do
apps."

2. Priority Matrix

Visual project segmentation and prioritization Free trial; then \$12/person/month for Pro and \$24/person/month for Business iOS, Android, Mac, PC https://appfluence.com

Priority Matrix is an intuitive task-management tool for visual learners and people who work in teams. Users sort tasks into one of four quadrants: Critical and Immediate, Critical but Not Immediate, Not Critical but Immediate, and Uncategorized. Manipulate the size/colors of each section, add icons, and indicate due/start/repeat dates with push notifications. Eric Tivers, an ADHD coach, uses this app to help him break down his big-picture goals into measurable benchmarks. He also uses it to organize specific projects, including overhauling his website and planning a podcast. "I'm a visual person, so I like the fact that Priority Matrix allows me to look at just one project, or all of them, based on due dates," he says. "And don't underestimate the power of an eye-catching icon next to each task, either!"

3. Todoist

Delegate and track projects easier Free for basic version; \$3/user/month for Premium; \$5/user/month or Business iOS, Android, Mac, PC, Web https://en.todoist.com

"From overwhelmed to on top of it." This is <u>Todoist</u>'s slogan, and the ADHD Holy Grail. This powerful app allows you to share projects and delegate tasks to others. Notifications, due dates, reminders and color-coded priority levels keep everyone on track. Then, Karma tracks your productivity and accomplishments over time — perfect for people with more tasks than time. The premium version includes location-based reminders, calendar sync, productivity tracking, task additions via email, and more.

"I like **Todoist**, which supports 'sub-tasks' for project organization. This lets me add a task or appointment to the list whenever I happen to think of it, before I get distracted and it leaves my head completely."

- umnlawgrrl

READER RECOMMENDATION

"We use Clock on our iPhones and iPads. Trying to beat a time goal is a good change in motivation sometimes!"

4. Cozi

The family "brain" for coordinated living Free iOS, Android, Windows, Web http://www.cozi.com

<u>Cozi</u> calls itself the "must-have organizer for families," and our readers agree — it's one of the most recommended apps on *ADDitude*'s Facebook page! It combines a family calendar, to-do lists, shopping lists, recipes, and everything you could need to help your family keep overlapping and conflicting schedules in sync. Any family member can access the app from any device, so everyone knows what everyone is up to at all times — meaning no more scrambling to find your child a ride to that soccer game she "forgot" to remind you about.

"I don't know how I'd ever have even a relatively sane life without my **Cozi** app. When I have something to remember (appointments, grocery list, tasks to do, etc.), I'll pull out my phone and type or speak it into my 'brain' (Cozi) so I don't forget. It'll send reminders to my phone and/or email so it literally 'remembers' for me. Plus the family is all linked to one account so calendars sync and the shopping list can be added to or marked as bought

"I love **Cozi**. We've used it for several years now. Me, my husband, and my two oldest children use it most. It helps because you can enter your appointments, notes, shopping lists, etc. in one central location and all the reminders are shared on all of our devices linked to the Cozi account." — **ADDitude reader**

from anyone in the family. Cozi has been my lifesaver!" — Chrys B.

"We love **Cozi** because it can be accessed on a computer or mobile device. On the go, I put in doctors' appointments and set reminders right when we make the appointment, to make sure we don't have any conflicts and so I don't lose the appointment card. I don't know how we would be managing our ADHD lives without Cozi!" — **Sue S.**

GET CONNECTED

Join the ADDitude community at facebook.com/additudemag/

5. Any.do

The personal assistant in your pocket Free for basic version; \$2.99/month for Premium iOS, Android, Web, Slack, Alexa https://www.any.do

When you want to get things done, <u>Any.do</u> is the place to start. This simple app — used by millions of people around the world — combines a to-do list, a calendar, and an "Assistant" feature that is a godsend for anyone with ADHD. How does it work? The Assistant scans your upcoming tasks, and uses artificial intelligence to figure out what it can take off your plate. Say you wrote, "Buy flowers for Mom" on your to-do list. Your Assistant will be able to look up nearby florists, pick out bouquets she'll love, and run the prices by you — all without you having to lift a finger!

6. Task Timer

Time estimates and focus jolts

Free

Google Chrome

https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/task-timer/aomfjmibjhhfdenfk-paodhnlhkolngif?hl=en-US

If you think everything takes 20 minutes — but actually have no idea how long you've been staring at your computer screen — **Task Timer** is the simple but powerful tool you need to make better estimates and stay on task. Pick a task and designate its completion time; this Google Chrome extension keeps you on track by showing time elapsed and time remaining. Include breaks in your schedule, or use the notifications feature to jolt your attention back into focus. We like how users can customize the extension to their personal work preferences — a quick burst of activity, or a slower and more leisurely pace.

"As a teacher and adult with ADHD, I use **Task Timer** and Evernote — both with my own children, as well as my classroom children."

- Susan

"This app is great for time management and procrastination: estimating how long a task will take, and then doing the task and comparing your estimate to the time it actually took." — **ADDitude reader**

DID I JUST TWEET THAT?

Struggling with online impulsivity? Read some tips for controlling your social media at http://additu.de/social-media/

7. Coach.me

Peer motivation and coaching strategies
Free for basic Habit Tracker; \$15/week for Habit Coaching; \$249/month for
Leadership Coaching
iOS, Android, Web
https://www.coach.me

Like a sticker chart for adults, <u>Coach.me</u> helps you build healthier habits. The app combines social networking and a daily chart to help you track when and how often you're doing an action. Tapping in to a supportive community to give or receive "props" increases the likelihood you will take action. Available habits range from "Floss Teeth" or "Clear Clutter" to the more difficult "Wake Up on Time." You also get daily tips and pats on the back for completing tasks. For a weekly fee, you can access the "Habit Coaching" function, which connects you to one of more than 700 coaches and their personal productivity strategies.

8. Finish

Only show me what's urgent \$1.99

iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/finish-the-procrastinators-to-do-list/id558559470?mt=8

"The To-Do List for Procrastinators," Finish was created by two high school students who say they couldn't find the perfect app. When adding a task, you select a due date: "Short Term," "Mid Term," or "Long Term." (It's up to you to define what these terms mean.) Instead of due-date reminders — which can feel meaningless to procrastinators — Finish shows you how time is running out, and moves tasks from one time category to another as it does. Focus Mode, ideal for anyone with ADHD, shows only the most important tasks in your list and hides the rest.

FREE DOWNLOAD

Stop procrastinating!
Download our guide to getting things done on time at http://additu.de/
procrastinate/

9.2Do

To-do lists for visual thinkers

Free for iOS and Android versions, additional features available for purchase; \$49.99 for single-user license; \$149.99 for multi-user license iOS, Android, Mac

http://www.2doapp.com

The <u>2Do</u> app organizes simple reminders and checklists, as well as larger projects, by color — an important feature for visual thinkers. The app's ingenious clear tab system also allows users to create lists and then *not* promptly forget about them. Each task is sortable by priority, due date, note, an embedded audio note, and/or photo. The app also lets you defer tasks to a later date — a feature to be used sparingly and responsibly!

"It lets me organize my thoughts and my day." — ADDitude reader

10. TeuxDeux

Simple weekly task manager
Free for 30 days, then \$3/month or \$24/year
iOS, Web
https://teuxdeux.com

<u>TeuxDeux</u> is a clear and simple task manager with a one-week-at-a-time focus. Use the app's simple calendar to create tasks and assign completion dates. Easily bold, italicize, or hyperlink text using the simple interface, which also allows you to list tasks by project. Sync your TeuxDeux account using the free iPhone app or any Web browser on your phone or computer so that you never need to wonder, "What should I be doing right now?"

"I really like **TeuxDeux** — it has an easy way to track to-do lists and calendar stuff, and it looks like a datebook on your screen."

— ADDitude reader

TIME FOR KIDS

Does your child lose track of time? Listen to this expert webinar for parents at http://additu.de/time-kids/

11. MultiTimer

Visual reminders for the time blind Free for basic version; \$2.99-\$5.99 for Pro iOS https://multitimer.net

MultiTimer is a colorful, easy-to-use timer application that powers multi-tasking, medication schedules, managing more than one kid's homework, and much more. Use the app to create multiple timers — counting either up or down — and view them all at once on your phone's home screen in a clear, attractive widget. If you let the timer run past its expiration, you'll see an eye-catching banner indicating which task has entered overtime. It's simple to reuse timers for tasks you complete regularly — and to pre-set a timer to start several minutes, hours, or days from now.

12. Brili

Kid-driven routines without nagging
Free for basic version; \$7.99/month or \$49.99/year
iOS, Android, Chrome
http://www.brili.co

Experts agree that children with ADHD benefit enormously from routines. Parents agree that setting up and maintaining consistent schedules is easier said than done. Enter Brili, the first interactive tool — based on proven psychological principles — that gently but firmly guides children through everyday routines. It's simple for parents to set up, and kids will have a blast moving through the game-like app to get their tasks done. Parents can monitor their child's progress from another device, lessening the tension that often comes from hovering and nagging.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Time Timer helps my daughter prepare for transitions, and our Watch-Minder keeps us focused in a discreet way."

[&]quot;I use it to get my seven-year-old to school and to bed. She enjoys the challenge." — **ADDitude reader**

13. ChoreMonster

Make a game out of your child's chores *Free iOS*, *Android*, *Amazon*, *Windows* https://www.choremonster.com

Don't get caught in the cycle of yelling and nagging; get control of the chore wars with <u>ChoreMonster</u>, a fun app that turns chores into a game your child will race to win. Parents enter the chores, along with a unique score for each one. Children complete chores to earn points, which they can later exchange for rewards. It's fun, easy to use, and teaches important self-control skills.

"It is a fun way to encourage kids to do chores. My only problem is that my daughter would rather play with the monster than clean and get new ones." — **ADDitude reader**

14. Timely

For those who trade in time \$7/month per user, \$14-21 for Premium versions Mac, Windows, iOS, Android, Web https://timelyapp.com

Timely is a time-tracking tool that manages your profitability, productivity, and efficiency. Billed as a replacement for manual time sheets, it uses artificial intelligence to pull data from your calendar, email, and other digital apps to record a timeline of activity and organize it into different categories of information — you don't have to log anything. You can then go back and rename or reorganize the tags and categories suggested by Timely. Timely remembers your edits and adjusts accordingly so that you end up with completely automatic time tracking. The apps also keeps tabs on project milestones, tracks how much time individuals are spending working, and allows you to share reports.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Aida Reminder is simple and very helpful for getting things done. It has many different sounds for alarms and reminders, and the tasks can be repeated as often as you need."

15. Nag

Just do it, already Free for basic version; \$4.99 for Upgrade iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nag-repeating-alerts-for-events-tasks/id625983805?mt=8

It's annoying when a spouse or parent hounds you to finish a task. But when it's an app doing the reminding — well, that's just helpful! Nag is the persistent alarm clock that will keep pestering you until you just do it. When scheduling a new task, choose to set your reminders using 2-, 5-, 10-, 30-, or 60-minute intervals. When the alarm goes off, take care of the task and press stop, or let it remind you again in a set amount of time. This could be the end of burned dinners and forgotten appointments.

16. Trello

Organize anything with anyone, anywhere Free for basic version, \$4.99-\$44.99 for premium versions iOS, Android https://www.trello.com

Trello is a visual organizing tool — customizable boards, lists, and cards let you organize and prioritize your projects in an engaging way. The app allows you to create project boards, then create tasks and save information within them. Use checklists, labels, and due dates to tackle to-do-lists and push projects to completion. Trello is great for work, house projects, or even planning a family vacation. With "Power ups" you can integrate complementary apps like calendars or maps. Trello works offline and syncs across all of your devices so that you can collaborate with others from any location.

"This is the best app for keeping all my thoughts, projects, deadlines, and commitments organized and fluid. I have standing 'cards' for the days of the week — into which I can drag and drop tasks and reminders. **Trello** is shareable and updates in real time across platforms. I can look at my college daughter's shared board and get an idea of how she is doing since she uses it to track her homework and life tasks. She shares it with me and a non-college friend so we are her accountability buddies and we can celebrate her successes." —**ADDitude reader**

17. Due

Reminders you can't ignore 4.99 for iOS, \$9.99 for Mac iOS, Mac http://www.dueapp.com

You know what needs to get done each day; it's remembering in the moment that's the problem. Forget less with <u>Due</u>, the app that stores your tasks and lets you see how many are waiting for you with a glance. Use 12 quick-access tools to set reminders and reusable timers for tasks you complete daily — like brewing coffee or walking the dog. If you're ignoring a task, persistent reminders will stay in sight until you complete the task, reschedule it, or make the effort to silence it.

"I absolutely LOVE my **Due** app! You set an alarm and it gently chimes to let you know when you need to do whatever it is you needed to do. You can set repeating alarms, you can snooze, whatever. But it will continue to go off every few seconds until you address it. I have mine set to help me remember to take my Adderall every morning. It's great if I tell somebody 'I'll email that to you' or if somebody needs a quick favor that day and I'm not at home or in a position to do it right then, I set the alarm to remind me to do it later. Memory, clearly, is one of my worst problems with my ADHD." — **Edee**

16

"Due keeps me sane." — ADDitude reader

READER RECOMMENDATION

"BusyKid was the first chore app that really clicked with my kids. They enjoyed the computer interface and clicking off the chores as they did them. The banking aspect was also appealing."

Chapter 2: Information Management

Mobile apps designed to help you store vital information, create smarter to-do lists, use email to your advantage, and much more.

1. Evernote

Notes to trigger your memory
Free for basic version; \$7.99/month for Premium \$14.99/month per user
for Business
iOS, Android, Mac, PC
https://evernote.com

How often do you say, "Ooooh, I've got to remember that!" — only to promptly forget it? Evernote, a cloud-based platform, can fix that. It allows you to store text, photos, and audio notes on your device of choice, eliminating the need for paper clutter. Create "notebooks" and categorize notes for recipes, an upcoming vacation, product research, to-do lists, and so on. Notes are tagged with geo-location for mapping or search. Ultimately, all of your information is in one spot, organized and available through a simple search.

"You think of something important while standing in line at the bank? Open **Evernote**, and jot it down. See something neat that reminds you that you need to purchase something similar? Open Evernote and take a picture of it. Idea for a song? Open Evernote on your iPhone or Android and sing a verse or two. Now here's the fun part... Where did all of your notes from the whole day go? How will you ever collect them all? Simply log into Evernote on your computer and there they are; like Gmail, it's in the cloud. Your life has changed." — **Timmy D.**

"I LOVE **Evernote**. My entire family uses it to take notes for homeschool, recipe organization, office/household management, and book keeping. I recently purchased a document scanner to scan important papers, mail, etc. and integrated document storage with Evernote. We can't live without it!" — **ADDitude reader**

STILL TOO MUCH PAPER?

Overwhelmed by paper IRL? Find tips for managing paper clutter at http://additu.de/wt/

2. Wunderlist

All your lists, all in one place Free iOS, Android, Windows, Web, Kindle Fire https://www.wunderlist.com

If thoughts fly out of your head before you have time to jot them down, Wunderlist is the app for you. It lets you easily add new tasks to your Today page, and then set due dates or reminders so you don't miss your deadline. Share your lists so that the whole family can add items to your grocery list, eliminating forgotten items. Don't have your phone handy? You can access your to-do list from your computer and tablet, too!

"I use **Wunderlist** to keep track of responsibilities at work and home. It helps because it links to my Microsoft account at work. It allows me to centralize everything in one place." — **ADDitude reader**

3. Mint

Your finances — made real Free to download; paying bills through the app can incur a fee iOS, Android https://www.mint.com

Mint manages all things money — checking and savings accounts balances, budgets, investments, and debts — all in one place. It is surprisingly intuitive, and its graphic layout is truly ADHD-friendly. Its bar and pie graphs help even financial newbies and those allergic to spreadsheets make sense of their money. And on the website, users can add photos or graphics to personalize savings goals. The app detects and alerts you to unusual activity on your accounts, and lets you know if you are paying more for car insurance, for example, than other people in your geographical area.

"We just started using **Mint** to help keep track of our finances. It's free and has features like email reminders when payments are due or balances are low. (And no, this isn't an ad; I don't work for them. I just really liked having a reminder that a payment was due, or I'd be dinged with a late fee.) The budget feature forces you to look at just where

READER RECOMMENDATION

"I use Medicalog to track my and the kids' various medical symptoms. It concentrates on mental health and issues with the whole body, and generates reports. We're trying to determine trends, and track illnesses for various doctors. It's helpful."

those \$\$\$ are going, and I suspect it will be a real blessing next year at tax time." — **Barb**

"I LOVE **Mint**. It tracks EVERYTHING and gives tips, which are clearly sponsored but not intrusive. Texts for upcoming bills or low balances save me a fortune. Just don't EVER delete an account. Deleted accounts can never be retrieved once gone. Lesson learned the hard way." — **ADDitude reader**

4. Boomerang for Gmail

Email, but smarter

Free for basic version; \$4.99-\$49.99/month for advanced versions iOS, Android, Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera, Edge, Outlook, Office 365 http://www.boomeranggmail.com

Say you're puttering around at 3 a.m. and decide to get some email out of the way. Just click "Send It Later," and your boss will receive your response closer to normal business hours. Or perhaps you want to know whether a recipient has received or answered a very important email you sent yesterday. Tell Boomerang to let you know if the recipient hasn't opened it or just hasn't responded, when it's most helpful to you.. The app can also resend important emails at designated times — perfect for important correspondence that your brain can't figure out what to do with in the moment. This is great for managing the dreaded "waiting on" list.

5. Google Voice

Phone calls for visual minds *Free iOS*, *Android*, *Web*https://voice.google.com

Google Voice assigns each user a number that can be forwarded to any phone. It asks a caller to state his name, and lets you decide whether to take the call or send it to voicemail. Google Voice also allows you to receive email or text transcriptions of voicemail messages. The transcripts aren't perfect — what is, really? — but sometimes reading a transcript of a voicemail message can mean the difference between remembering to respond and act on it — or not.

EMAIL OVERLOAD?

Get 10 simple solutions designed to make email work better for you at http://additu.de/il/

"I like it and use it a lot. It's easier to communicate with people overseas with it, and it's helpful because you can also text with the number assigned to you." — **ADDitude reader**

6. Dropbox

Your digital filing cabinet Free for basic version; \$9.99-\$19.99/month for advanced versions iOS, Android, Mac, PC, Kindle, Windows phones https://www.dropbox.com

After a lifetime of losing critical files, most people with ADHD agree that having your head — or at least your files — in the cloud is a good thing. After mastering the interface, you can store most documents and files in Dropbox, an online storage system that's accessible from anywhere. The best part is how easy it is to share big files in email — just send a link. Dropbox can also automatically save your pictures, share updated files with colleagues or partners, and much more.

"My husband and I use it to share important documents, lists, recordings, and media with each other. It helps a lot because we can access the info from anywhere and it doesn't get misplaced or lost in a pile of clutter like it would if it were physically here in our home. With 4 of 5 people in my home having ADHD, it makes life much easier!"

— ADDitude reader

"I love using **Dropbox** because it is with me on all my work and home computers, as well as my mobile devices. I stick to my folder system and use long, descriptive filenames so things are easy to find. If I have a folder that is getting full of files (for me this is around 10 files), I create separate subfolders, filing the appropriate files in them. I find this keeps me from being overwhelmed with too much to visually process at once." — **ADDitude reader**

HOW DROPBOX HELPED ME

Read one college student's story of using cloud-based tools to seriously lighten her load at http://additu.de/15y/

[&]quot;Dropbox saved my professional life!" — ADDitude reader

7. IFTTT (If This Then That)

Rules for online engagement *Free iOS*, *Android*https://ifttt.com

As its tagline says, this app will "put the Internet to work for you." How? Use the If Then That (IFTTT) "channels" to create action recipes that follow any sequence you desire. For instance, "If I star an email in Gmail, add it to my to-do list." "If I get a voicemail, then upload it to Dropbox." "If I miss a call, add it to Todoist." Or, our favorite, "If it's 9 p.m., turn the lights off using WeMo Switch." IFTTT works with more than 400 current channels including Android Call/Location, Dropbox, email, Evernote, FFF-Found!, Fitbit, iOS Reminders, SmartThings, Todoist, and WeMo Motion. The recipe possibilities are endless.

"I use Gmail plus the **IFTTT** SMS channel to send me reminders or notify me of things (for example, to charge my FitBit)." — **Mark H.**

8. Outlook Mobile

Your life — in sync

Free

iOS, Android, Windows phones

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/outlook-com/mobile/

Many apps try to do it all. Most of them fail. <u>Outlook Mobile</u> may be the exception. It integrates your calendar, email, and cloud services like Dropbox and Google Drive. When writing an email to schedule a meeting or an event, you have options to send your availability from your calendar or to create a calendar invite. This might just stop the back-and-forth madness once and for all.

FREE RESOURCE

Learn about the motivating power of clear consequences, at http://additu.de/impulse/

9. Unroll.Me

No more junk mail Free iOS, Android, Gmail, Google Apps, Yahoo! Mail, Outlook.com, AOL Mail, iCloud https://unroll.me

Are you overwhelmed by the thousands of unopened emails clogging your inbox? <u>Unroll.me</u> may be the answer. It's a free service — and now an iOS app — that will clean up your email inbox, unsubscribe you from undesired lists, and consolidate all of your newsletters, listservs, and emails into one daily digest. A hundred emails are transformed into one. Your inbox has never been happier.

"I love that this gets my low-priority emails out of my main inbox. Less distraction." — *ADDitude* reader

"It has helped me to winnow down my emails to the important ones. I can look at all the unimportant ones once a day or just trash them if I don't have time. It unsubscribes for me and saves me boatloads of time and frustration!" — **ADDitude reader**

10. Things

Lists you can't forget \$9.99-\$49.99 iOS, Mac https://culturedcode.com/things/

When built and used right, a list is a beautiful thing — and Things is the award-winning list-making app that no adult with ADHD should leave home without. From a grocery list to the day's tasks at work, Things organizes all of your information in ways that make sense to the ADHD brain. Projects, for instance, can go under one of four headings — Today, Upcoming, Anytime, and Someday — while lists can be broken down into personalized sections (called "Headings") that reflect each project's unique requirement. You can use symbols to make your lists clearer and to share your list just "drop" it in your Inbox — it'll send itself with a single click.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"List Ease has been a blessing. No more forget-ting my shopping list — it's always with me!"

11. Remember the Milk

What you need, when you need it Free for basic version; \$39.99/year for Pro iOS, Android, Blackberry, Mac, PC, Linux, Amazon Fire https://www.rememberthemilk.com

Remember the Milk syncs across mobile, web, and even your Apple Watch, granting access to task lists anywhere or anytime. You won't forget your grocery needs — or anything else — ever again! Add a list of to-dos, estimate how long each will take, and view by priority, date added, or those that are overdue. The newest version allows you to create your daily plan using Siri; go Pro to use the web app without an internet connection and access unlimited storage space.

"My homepage has my Google calendar with its reminders of upcoming meetings, appointments and events; my 'Remember the Milk' to-do list application; my email, which receives most of my bills in electronic format; my most recent blogs from my Google Reader account; a link to information about local weather; a tool for quickly searching my Gmail; and a link to and a list of recent Google docs, which I use to keep all my work documents accessible no matter what computer I'm on." — bigmaggie

"This free app allows me to make lists of things I need to do/buy. I use it to keep important data about the sizes and quantities of items I need." — **ADDitude reader**

MASTER THE GROCERY STORE

Need more than a list to make your grocery shopping run smoothly? See our ADHD-friendly tips at http://additu.de/lw/

12. Microsoft OneNote

Let your ideas take shape Free with Office 365 Subscription Windows, iOS, Android, Web https://www.onenote.com

OneNote allows for free-form information gathering and multi-user collaboration by syncing notes you take on your phone across all of your devices. This multifaceted and flexible app allows you to write memos, make a digital sketchbook, capture a photo, or plan a big event. OneNote has a flexible canvas so you can choose how you want to organize your information. Sticky notes and an easy access notepad badge allow the hyperactive mind to quickly jot down thoughts or reminders.

"With **OneNote**, I can jot down an idea from my phone, tablet, computer, etc. at any time so that I don't forget it, and I don't lose it along the way. This is great for work." —**ADDitude Reader**

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Chapter 3: Focus and Attention

Mobile apps designed to help you block out distractions, zero in on work, and build a stronger brain.

1. Focus@Will

Music for productive brains

Free for basic version; \$4.99-\$11.99/month for advanced versions

iOS, Android, Sonos, Web

https://www.focusatwill.com

Designed to increase your focus and attention, Focus@Will is a music app that uses specially engineered audio stripped of frequencies similar to the human voice. Why? Our brains are wired to pay attention to voices, and they distract us. The app can be set to different "energy levels," depending on your specific focus needs, and even has channels designed for the ADHD brain. A built-in "Productivity Tracker" figures out what types of music help you focus best, and personalizes each playlist for your cognitive type and biorhythms. Start with a 2-week free trial before deciding on the monthly membership.

"Focus@Will is like medication for my brain. When I play it, the part of my brain that always finds distractions pays attention to the music, freeing me up to concentrate. I always use it when I work, because it increases my productivity dramatically. Plus, the timer feature encourages me to both work longer and to take some breaks."

— ADDitude reader

FOCUS@WORK

Readers share their favorite rituals for staying focused on the job at http://additu.de/lv/

2. AutoSilent

Behavior training for your phone \$3.99 iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/autosilent/id474777148?mt=8

We've all done it: forgotten to silence our phones in a movie theater, dance recital, or doctor's office. Or we forget to turn it back on, leading to missed calls, texts, or notifications. <u>AutoSilent</u> helps by silencing your phone based on specified calendars, geographic-fences, or a timer, which is great for appointments or a quick power nap. With this app, you don't have to remember to turn your ringer on or off. ADHD coach Eric Tivers loves this app, saying, "This feature should be standard on all smartphones!"

3. Lumosity

Popular brain games
Free for basic version; \$11.99/month, \$59.99/year for Premium
iOS, Android, Web
https://www.lumosity.com

Designed by neuroscientists to improve cognitive skills, <u>Lumosity</u> creates a personalized training program to challenge your brain in key areas. The app uses dozens of games to target a wide variety of trouble spots such as memory, focus, and problem solving — all in fun, fast-paced chunks that adults and children with ADHD will love. With 9 peer-reviewed studies, more than 40 different brain training games, and more than 60 million members worldwide, Lumosity certainly has the numbers to back up its claims of brain-training greatness.

"Our entire family loves the brain-game app **Lumosity**. Each game targets a different area of need like focus, attention, memory, concentration, etc. They are fun and challenging while being therapeutic. Every little bit helps, and this is one way to train your brain." — **Eliza**

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Focus is a simple 'watch the moving dot' or 'shell' game. My son likes it because it keeps track of the most moves the dot has made when he was still able to choose the correct dot. He likes beating his previous best, but he can't really cheat because if he loses focus for just a second, there are enough dots that he will probably choose the wrong one."

[&]quot;I love **Lumosity** because it helps me to focus. I don't play it very often, but when I do, I feel a little sharper." — **ADDitude reader**

4. Elevate

Customized brain training Free for basic version; \$4.99/month-\$39.99/year for Pro iOS, Android https://www.elevateapp.com

Based on extensive scientific research by experts in neuroscience and cognitive learning, <u>Elevate</u> promises to improve cognitive skills through regular training sessions. Each user receives a personalized training program that adjusts over time to maximize results. Trouble focusing? Difficulty organizing your thoughts while writing? No problem! The personalized daily workouts will help you improve target skills — like memory, processing speed, or comprehension — while maintaining already-strong ones.

"I have greatly enjoyed **Elevate**. It is much more knowledge-based and has been very fun and informative. The best benefit has been speeding up some mental math processes." — **ADDitude reader**

GADGETS & APPS

For more reviews of high-tech tools for ADHD symptoms, visit http://additu.de/gadgets/

5. CogniFit

Neurological weight training
Free for basic version; \$19.99/month or \$89.99/year for Premium version
iOS, Android
https://www.cognifit.com

CogniFit is the best way to train your brain on the go! The app starts with a quick quiz to assess your cognitive abilities, then it personalizes activities to challenge your mind, strengthen your attention, and boost your processing speed. Anyone with ADHD — or dyslexia, depression, or any of the other conditions the app is designed for — will benefit from the app's emphasis on key abilities like focus, memory, and concentration. Competitive? Challenge your friends and earn "Neurons" to track your progress. Plus, CogniFit comes in more than 15 languages, including Spanish, French, and Chinese.

6. Calm

Train your brain to be less anxious Free for basic version; \$399.99/for life iOS, Android https://www.calm.com

Mindful meditation is all the rage, but it's not easy for someone with ADHD to start — a stick with — a meditation regime. But teaching your brain how to face and conquer stress is critical to your mental health in the long term, and mindfulness is a great tool to put you on that path. The Calm app is a simple tool to help you relax, be present throughout your daily life, and reduce anxiety in the long term. The beautifully designed interface — featuring calming nature scenes and soothing sounds — allows you to choose from several guided meditations. Whether your goal is reducing anxiety, focusing more at work, or breaking a bad habit, Calm has a meditation to help you get started.

7. Focus Time

Scientifically backed focus aid \$4.99 for iOS, \$9.99 for Mac iOS, Mac http://focustimeapp.com

Focus Time is a timer, designed for your Apple computer or your iOS device, that promises to keep you on task and improve productivity. How? Focus Time uses the Pomodoro method, which alternates periods of focus with short and long breaks. The app runs seamlessly in the background of whatever device you choose, and keeps track of how long you've successfully focused on each activity. The beauty of the Pomodoro technique is that you only have to focus in 25-minute chunks, making this app ideal for anyone with ADHD.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"WatchMinder keeps me aware of time. I can quickly lose focus without something reminding me to bring my attention back to what I need to be doing."

8. Brain Wars

Competitive brain training

Free; Can purchase "coins" starting at \$1.99

iOS, Android

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brain-wars/id845044428?mt=8

Brain Wars is a brain-training app designed to promote focus, memory, and more organized thinking. The app features simple math and memory puzzles to pick up and play whenever you have a free moment. Users are matched against opponents for three 20-second puzzle rounds, and they earn points for speed, memory, judgment, and mental math. Players can check their global rankings in real time. Brain Wars puzzles are primarily non-verbal — though some newer games do incorporate letters — so if you struggle with learning disabilities (or just hate word games!), this might be the brain-training app for you.

"I like the exercises. It keeps my mind focused." — ADDitude reader

9. Freedom

Block the Internet — sometimes

Free for basic version; \$6.99/month; \$29.99/year; \$49.99 for two years;
\$129.99 for life
iOS, Mac, PC

https://freedom.to

Many people with ADHD have "one-more-thing-itis," especially in the evening. If you start each day saying, "Today is the day that I will leave work at 6 p.m," and the next thing you know it's 10 p.m., the internet-blocking app Freedom can help. Using Freedom's quick interface, just highlight the times and days you want it to work, and Freedom will block you from the Internet during those times. The only way to sidestep Freedom is to reset your computer or phone; it's possible, but the chore is onerous enough that most users stick to the schedule. iPhone users are especially lucky — they can use Freedom on their phones.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"I subscribe to Fit Brains, as I like the games they have. I use it, and like 'playing' the games to help me keep working my mind in different areas and knowing how I do compared to others."

10. StayOnTask

Are you paying attention now?

Free for basic version, \$4.99 for Plus

Android

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=valavg.stayontask

StayOnTask is a simple app that works wonders for anyone who drifts off during long assignments, whether at school or at work. The app will periodically "check in" to make sure you're doing your work — not messing around. It's random, so users can't predict when it will check up on them. If you're off task when the app checks in, it provides a gentle reminder to re-engage — and a dose of guilt that doesn't hurt either. The paid version offers customizable alarm tones, the ability to temporarily pause your work session, and the ability to schedule work periods ahead of time.

"I love this app. You can put it on vibrate at work or even run it silently so you just see the alert." — *ADDitude* reader

"It is super simple — you turn it on and lay it on the table beside you, and it chimes at random intervals asking you to press a button if you're on or off task. It's astoundingly helpful." — **Susan**

11. Hatch

Mindfulness timer for students *Free*

iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/hatch-stay-focused/id1320527234?mt=8

In the digital age, children face constant distractions from devices, which erode their ability to focus on assignments. <u>Hatch</u> is a timer that encourages taking breaks from screens and focusing on other things. The timer can be set in five-minute increments — while it's running, a mystery creature begins to hatch inside an egg. If you close the app or run another app, the egg will crack and you'll lose the creature. Hatch can be used to stay on task and focused while doing homework or reading and is a fun way to moderate tech usage.

CHAPTER 4 Creativity

Chapter 4: Creativity

Mobile apps designed to help you brainstorm great ideas, translate those ideas into documents, and keep your imagination limber.

1. SimpleMind

Mind mapping on the go Free for basic version; \$6.99-€898.00 for advanced versions iOS, Android, Mac, PC https://simplemind.eu

"I am not a linear thinker, but I love mind mapping," says Eric Tivers, an ADHD coach. "Simple Mind is my go-to app to create these maps." Mind mapping is a great tool for children and adults, particularly those who think better when they're free to visually or physically plan out ideas. Simple Mind has an intuitive interface, and tons of options to let you customize your map however you want. Plus, it syncs with Dropbox, letting you access completed maps from anywhere — including school or work.

2. WriteRoom

Stripped-down Word processing \$9.99

Mac

http://www.hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom/

Some days, even the Microsoft Word toolbar can steal our attention away from our writing. WriteRoom, a simple Mac application, is as close to distraction-free word processing as you can get. In full-screen mode, there's nothing but a blinking cursor — the app doesn't even underline misspelled words! WriteRoom's premise is simple: Write first, edit later.

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READER RECOMMENDATION

"ColorArt is an electronic version of the now-popular adult coloring books. My oldest child and I have both greatly enjoyed this application and found it to be relaxing."

CHAPTER 4 Creativity

3. Dragon Naturally Speaking

Dictation for fast thinkers \$74.99-\$500 for PC versions; \$300 for Mac version; \$15/month for app version iOS, Android, Mac, PC https://www.nuance.com/dragon.html

If your "Ferrari brain" moves faster than your hands can write, voice dictation can be a great tool. <u>Dragon Naturally Speaking</u> is widely considered the best software for voice dictation, particularly if you have a PC. The software package for both PCs and Macs comes with its own headset and microphone. Instead of typing, just start talking, and Dragon will type what you say.

"Dragon Naturally Speaking software saved my son in high school. My son struggled with the mechanics all his life and likely always will. Though his writing is legible, he 'draws' each letter taking extraordinarily painstaking amounts of time, sometimes 15 minutes to write one sentence. He is an avid reader with an excellent vocabulary, but when writing, he would purposely choose a word with fewer letters to represent his thought because the mechanics were so laborious, and therefore under-represented his understanding to his teachers. Dragon Speak can keep pace with his naturally fast speaking speed, once trained to his voice, and it actually makes it fun! He is now free to share all of his most intelligent and insightful thoughts in written form. I know that this type of technology will help my son as he continues into college and a career." — Billie C.

"I use it for papers I have to write for classes I am taking. It does help because, although I type fast, I can talk even faster."

— ADDitude reader

THE WRITE STUFF

Many kids with ADHD struggle with writing. Help them improve this critical skill at http://additu.de/jq/

CHAPTER 4 Creativity

4. Unstuck

Writers' block — unblocked *Free iOS, Android, Web*http://www.unstuck.com

Well-crafted in both function and design, <u>Unstuck</u> uses cognitive behavioral therapy principles and an engaging interface to free up your brain when it gets knotted. Start by selecting and rating cards that best describe your feelings (for example, you are indecisive, lost, overwhelmed, unmotivated, etc.), then sort feelings (for example, "I don't know why this isn't working") into two piles: "So me" and "Not me." Finally, choose from a list of behaviors, add some additional information about your challenge, and the app will spit out tips to free up your brain — and let your creativity flourish.

"I like how it helps not just with creativity but helps enforces positive self-esteem." — *ADDitude* reader

"I like the advice **Unstuck** gives, I always keep all the emails and sometimes go back and reread them." — **ADDitude reader**

5. MindNode

Let the ideas rule
Free 2-week trial, \$9.99-\$14.99
iOS, Mac
http://mindnode.com

MindNode is similar to the mind-mapping app SimpleMind, above. Its unique strength, however, comes from the app's ability to automatically rearrange your maps in ways that make sense — so you can focus on content, not managing complex layouts. Create a new "node," or idea, with the tap of your finger — and drag to connect it to other nodes. Your work is automatically synced to iCloud, allowing you to focus on working toward your larger goal, without distractions.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"RoomStyler is an application for planning room decoration. I was amazed at how the ability to see renderings changed initial thoughts (in my case) or helped solidify ideas (for my eldest son). Since then I've used it to recreate existing rooms to help my own visualization skills."

CHAPTER 4 Creativity

6. Greatest Artists: Jigsaw Puzzle

Great art — scrambled

Free; can purchase additional puzzles within the app iOS, Android

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/jigsaw-puzzles-greatest-artists/id5o5397071?mt=8

Cézanne, Monet, and van Dyck may not ring bells for the 10-and-under set, but <u>Greatest Artists: Jigsaw Puzzle</u> is a good introduction — particularly for children looking to flex their brains. Great works of art are presented, divided into puzzle pieces, and scrambled. Your child's job is to put the masterpiece back together again. Like any good puzzle, it gives your memory and attention span a workout; these also boost your creativity as you figure out new ways to complete sections. Multiple levels challenge users ranging in age from 5 to 95.

7. Skitch

Make your photos talk
Free
Mac
https://evernote.com/skitch

Skitch, designed by Evernote, lets users mark up and annotate photos — meaning you can point to an object, add text, blur an area, and more. Adults with ADHD who work in a visual field — or children looking to flex their creative muscle — will have fun with Skitch's simple features and versatile tools. It can also be used for straightforward organization and money-management needs: Snap a photo of a receipt and mark it up for later filing, or take a picture of a messy room and break it into smaller chunks to help you organize. Skitch was shut down for iOS, Android, and PC a few years ago, but still runs on Mac computers. It works well in concert with Evernote.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"I frequently use Magic Puzzle because I love puzzles and it helps me de-stress."

[&]quot;I love it for use with my students. I can take a photo or screenshot and insert visuals and annotations to call attention to specific parts that I want students to notice." — **ADDitude reader**

CHAPTER 4 Creativity

8. Brainsparker

Your digital muse Free iOS http://brainsparker.com

People with ADHD are highly creative, it's true — but distraction, hyperactivity, and low self-esteem can derail our brain's best concepts before they become reality. Brainsparker helps you overcome these mental blocks by kick-starting your brain with random creativity prompts, including "trigger words," quotes, images, questions, and more. By forcing you to consider new ideas, Brainsparker can catapult you past challenges and remind you of the joy of creativity.

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ART THERAPY

Learn how creativity can help you or your child manage symptoms of ADHD at http://additu.de/art/

Sleep

Chapter 5: Sleep

Mobile apps designed to help you quiet your restless brain, diagnose sleep problems, and get out of bed when you need to.

1. White Noise

Sounds that bring on sleep Free for basic version; \$0.99-\$2.99 for Pro version iOS, Android, Mac, PC http://www.tmsoft.com/white-noise/

Ambient sounds help many people relax and fall asleep by blocking out noisy distractions in the environment — and in their brains. White Noise offers a menu of more than 40 ambient sounds that signal your brain to produce calming alpha waves. The options include the old standbys (Ocean, Streams, and Rain Storms) and some unusual sounds, like Tibetan Singing Bowl and Cat Purring. If you chill out best with manmade sounds, choose Clothes Dryer, Fan, Vacuum, or Washer.

"I use the **White Noise** app to help me focus by drowning out background distractions." — **Sara J.**

"White Noise helps my son sleep quite well, especially if he is having trouble sleeping. Something about the campfire noise just puts him out. He loves that sound." — ADDitude reader

"I use this when I'm traveling. It helps to keep me from over-focusing on various sounds that I'm not used to. I like the selection of available noises." — **ADDitude reader**

EXPERT WEBINAR

Listen to the audio recording of "Why People with ADHD Don't Sleep — And What You Can Do About It" at http://additu.de/ adhd-sleep/

2. Sleep as Android

REM and snoring data to act on Free for basic version; In-app purchases range from \$0.99 to \$5.49 Android http://sleep.urbandroid.org

Sleep as Android tracks sleeping patterns and charts graphs showing how well or poorly you slept each night. It alerts users of sleep deficits, and offers guidance and motivation for getting back to consistent sleep habits. The app can also record sound in the room while you're sleeping, to catch snoring or talking in your sleep — which your significant other may especially love sharing. Sleep as Android wakes you up at the best possible time, according to your REM cycle. The app integrates with Android Gear, including the Pebble Smartwatch and Philips Hue Smart Light.

"When it comes to tedious tasks, I use **Sleep as Android**. It only lets me turn off the alarm when I scan a QR code. I stick the codes where I need to do the task, so when I need to eat breakfast, I have to scan the code on my fridge; when it's time for meds, I scan the code on my pill-box. I can't turn the alarm off unless I scan the code and often that's enough to pull me away from whatever it was I thought was more important." — **ADDitude reader**

3. Wake N Shake

Let's wake physical \$4.99
iOS
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wake-n-shake-alarm-clock/id461785823?mt=8

Wake N Shake will not go down without a fight. As the name implies, this alarm app is shut off only by vigorously shaking your phone, sending the progress bar on the screen all the way to 100 percent — if you slow down for a second, the number will drop and you'll have to start again! Spirited motion gets blood flowing to the brain, awakens the prefrontal cortex, and provides the boost of energy you need to get out of bed.

INSOMNIA...OR ANXIETY?

Anxiety can contribute to sleep problems in children and adults with ADHD. Learn the signs at http://additu.de/separation/

4. Sleep Cycle

Like a sleep study — every night Free for basic version; \$1.99-\$29.99/year for Premium iOS, Android http://www.sleepcycle.com

Not many apps can claim to change your quality of life; this one can. Sleep Cycle uses your phone's motion sensors to pick up on movement in the dead of night. The intelligent alarm feature will wake you as many as 30 minutes before your scheduled alarm, based on your lightest phase of sleep — letting you wake up feeling refreshed and less likely to snooze. The app also shows how daily activities affect sleep quality, and encourages users to track their morning moods to see what's working and what's not.

"This app identifies patterns in your sleep problems and offers additional alarms for getting up." — **ADDitude reader**

5. Relax Melodies

Mindful meditation — with a melody Free for basic version; \$4.99-\$49.99 for upgrades iOS, Android https://www.ipnos.com/apps/relax-melodies

Let your obsessive ADHD thoughts drift away as you lay back, listen, and enjoy falling asleep with the <u>Relax Melodies</u> app, the most comprehensive noise machine around. Select sounds and melodies that you like, and combine them into your own unique mix. Save your favorite mixes to use over and over again. The app also comes with binaural beats, isochronic tones, and guided meditations available in English, Spanish, or Japanese. Not just a sleep aid, this app can be used to help you focus on a big project at work, drown out loud noises, or meditate.

"My husband and I use it. It helps us to turn our brains 'off' and relax. It helps us prepare our minds for sleep as well as calm ourselves down when we're wired." — **ADDitude reader**

"I love it! It keeps getting better with guided meditations, new sounds and more. Both my son and I use it every night!" — **ADDitude reader**

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Relax M.P. (Relax Melodies) is an app for white noise and meditation (guided or un-guided) that also provides the binaural, monaural or isochronic beats to activate the different brain waves for concentration, sleep, relaxation, meditation, etc. Both my son and I use it and it helps tremendously."

6. Deep Sleep with Andrew Johnson

Relaxation coaching when you need it most \$2.99 iOS, Android, Kindle http://www.withandrewjohnson.com/pages/apps/

White noise helps those of us distracted by exterior noises. But what if you can't relax because you find it difficult to "switch off" your racing brain? Try a few Deep Sleep therapy sessions with Andrew Johnson as your personal relaxation coach. Many users report that after just a few nights, they're able to turn off their seemingly endless stream of thoughts, fall asleep quickly, and stay asleep the whole night.

"I like Andrew Johnson's apps that use hypnosis to help me fall asleep (sometimes I just need someone else to remind me of all the muscles that need relaxing)." — **ADDitude reader**

7. Pzizz Sleep

Sleep sounds programmed by the experts *Free for basic version*; \$4.99-\$59.99 for upgrades *iOS*, *Android* http://pzizz.com

Some sleep apps play the same soundtrack on an endless loop, which lead to diminishing rewards as your brain adapts to the sounds. Mix up your ambient sound options with Pzizz Sleep. Choose inspirational words and music, or music only, set a duration (anywhere from 10 minutes to 12 hours), and press "Start" — and Pzizz's structured algorithm will create a unique soundtrack designed to lull you to sleep. Its unique combo of words, music, and binaural beats makes it ideal for either your nighttime rest or quick power naps, which are a great way to recharge a drained ADHD brain.

"Software like **Pzizz** will do the trick to take you to deep sleep."

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Sleep Better is a sleep cycle monitor and alarm clock. It uses the sensors built into your phone or tablet to monitor your sleep, provides a graph of the night, and tries to find the best time within a provided half-hour window to wake you in the morning."

⁻ Mazenco S.

8. FreakyAlarm

Alarm + Quests = Effective \$1.99 iOS http://freakyalarm.com

FreakyAlarm is as bad (and effective) as it sounds. First, this app requires you to solve math problems to disable it. If your math skills aren't up to snuff, choose the "easy" category and leave a calculator on your bedside table, because the app's annoying sound makes it hard to think. Our favorite feature is the "Get Out of Bed" option, which requires you to scan a pre-determined UPC or QR code (like the one on your toothpaste) to turn off the alarm. You can use this functionality for more than just waking up. Do you ever forget to take your medicine? Scan the barcode on your pill bottle, and now scanning it again is the only way to turn off your medication alarm. Scanning an item to deactivate an alarm is a great way to use point-of-performance reminders.

HOW TO FALL ASLEEP

Expert advice on falling — and staying! — asleep at http://additu.de/fall-asleep/

9. Binaural

Scientifically proven brain therapy Free; \$2.99 for additional features iOS, Mac

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/binaural-%CE%B2/id838752522?mt=8

Binaural beats are two different sounds transmitted into each ear by headphones. Your brain interprets each sound, plus a dormant third sound, which can result in a calming effect on the brain. Binaural beat therapy has been used to promote relaxation and sleep. The <u>Binaural</u> app features different preset sounds designed to bring on fatigue, meditation, concentration, learning, pain relief, and creativity. One reviewer said, "Tried quite a few apps like this but none can compare. This app helped me kiss insomnia goodbye!"

"I like **Binaural** beats, mostly because they're nifty and I can focus on them." — **ADDitude** reader

READER RECOMMENDATION

"I have started using guided meditations (search YouTube for 'bedtime meditations for children') to help my kids relax and get to sleep more quickly in the evening. They seem to greatly enjoy these and bedtime seems to be easier when they are used."

10. Calm

Meditation made easy
Free, \$14.99-69.99 for Premium Versions
iOS, Android
https://www.calm.com

Calm is an app that promotes mindfulness by focusing on meditation, sleep, body, and music. It offers more than 100 guided meditations for users of all experience levels to help manage anxiety and lower stress. For those who miss being told a story before bed, the app provides multiple soothing "sleep stories" to help achieve a deep sleep. Ten-minute videos on guided mindful movement and gentle stretching can also help release tension and recharge the mind. Music tracks are specially engineered to help you focus, relax and sleep, or you might opt for nature sounds or white noise.

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Chapter 6: Social Success

Mobile apps designed to help you or your child develop stronger social skills, interpret non-verbal cues, and roll with transitions.

1. How Would You Feel If...

Thinking through emotions \$3.99 iOS

https://www.superduperinc.com/products/view.aspx?stid=630#.WpCQI-7wZFQ

Some children with ADHD struggle to interpret social situations, new experiences, or even their own emotions. How Would You Feel If... poses that question in 56 different life situations; the answers are designed to lead to discussions of a child's reaction and feelings. Each illustrated "card" asks a question such as, "How would you feel if your favorite football team lost?" The most appropriate and inappropriate responses receive feedback, and a child's results can be viewed on a graph for easy parental tracking.

2. Social Quest

Practicing real-world responses \$24.99 iOS http://smartyearsapps.com/social-quest/

Developed by a speech-language pathologist, <u>Social Quest</u> is an iPad app that helps elementary, middle, and high school students improve language comprehension skills as they navigate a variety of social situations. This story-based intervention first describes real-world situations, then asks the user to identify a correct response to each social situation. As the quest goes on, kids earn up to 70 "rewards" linked to social competencies — and the app even has a beautifully designed "trophy room" to display and admire their job well done.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

"The ADHD Guide to Making & Keeping Friends" http://additu.de/friendsebook/

3. Model Me Going Places

Social expectations for visual learners *Free iOS*

http://www.modelmekids.com/community-social-skills-autism.html

Use this app to view slideshows of children modeling appropriate behavior in everyday places, such as school, a store, or a restaurant. Each slide includes audio narration and descriptive text. Model Me Going Places helps reinforce expected behavior and lessens the fear of new places. Be aware that the app contains advertisements for the company's line of social-skills DVDs, on which the app's resources are based.

4. Circles

Crystal clear social boundaries \$24.99 iOS https://www.circlesapp.com

Personal boundaries are not obvious to all children with ADHD and, sadly, they may be teased or bullied for their naïveté. Circles, based on research conducted at Harvard University, is an innovative way to teach kids to understand and respect different kinds of relationships — and the social norms and boundaries associated with each. The simple interface lets children assign different people to different "circles" — Mom goes in the innermost "private" circle, for instance, while a family doctor can be placed in the "handshake circle." Move people between circles as relationships develop to teach your child how acquaintances can evolve into friends over time — or vice versa.

AVOID THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BLUES

The tween years can be tough on any child. Learn how to help boost your child's social network at http://additu.de/lb/

5. Thrive: Mental Wellbeing

Personalized stress reduction for kids Free to download; \$6.49-\$9.49 for advanced versions iOS, Android

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/thrive-feel-stress-free/id1048928580?mt=8

Chronic struggles at school or at home poison our kids' self-confidence and happiness over time — which can, in turn, damage their social skills and peer interactions. Help your child take control of her feelings — and be a better friend in the process — with Feel Stress Free, an app that uses evidence-based strategies to help users of any age manage stress and train their brains to look on the bright side. Your child can start by tracking her emotions on the Mood Meter. From that data she'll receive a personalized plan to manage the day's stresses, with strategies ranging from guided deep breathing to time in an interactive Zen Garden. The app's bright colors, calming island backdrops, and cheerful alien avatar make it a delight for children, who also benefit from its anxiety-management and social-strengthening strategies.

WHY WE FEEL SO MUCH

Emotions can quickly take over an ADHD brain. Learn why — and what you can do — at http://additu.de/182/

6. Touch and Learn — Emotions

Taking the guess work out of reading emotions \$1.99 iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/touch-and-learn-emotions/id451685022?mt=8

<u>Touch and Learn — Emotions</u> is a simple app, designed to help children with developmental delays learn to read body language and recognize common emotions. The interface uses photos of children with different facial expressions to provide a safe practice space for identifying feelings. Accompanying audio guides the user as she works to match faces to emotions. If your child gets an answer wrong, the game continues as normal — allowing your child to build skills without getting disheartened by losing points.

7. Let's Be Social

Teaching tools for parents and educators \$9.99 iOS https://everydayspeech.com/lets-be-social/

<u>Let's Be Social</u> is designed to help teachers, parents, and professionals teach social skills and communication. The app contains 40 pre-made social lessons, 5 HD video lessons, and tools to create fully customizable lessons — plus the option to complete them with personal photos of real people from your child's life. Though most lessons are tailored for elementary school children, the customizable programs can be easily adjusted for any age group and situation. The app's pre-made lessons include everything from personal interactions and school behavior, to handling change and social relationships.

"Download an app called **Let's Be Social** on the Apple iPad. I use it for my 5-year-old, and it's great for showing social cues." — *ADDitude* reader

8. Social Adventures

A safe place to practice \$7.99 iOS http://all4mychild.com/apps/

Created by a team of speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists, <u>Social Adventures</u> offers an eight-week social skills awareness program that emphasizes practicing relationship behaviors and initiating interactions. The app contains more than 80 activities, all with step-by-step instructions and special tips for parents. Designed for children ages 3-13 with autism spectrum disorders and social difficulties, this app allows kids to practice thinking about and behaving appropriately in a variety of social situations.

MAKE TIME FOR FRIENDS

Learn how adults with ADHD can stay connected to those closest to them at http://additu.de/7t/

9. Happify

How to be a better, happier friend
Free for basic version; Plus version for \$14.99/month, \$139.99/year or \$449.99/lifetime
iOS, Android
https://www.happify.com

Designed to build emotional intelligence and the five essential skills linked to lifelong happiness, this app can help adults with ADHD work through the emotional issues that too often impede friendships and day-to-day social interactions. Happify's quick and fun games remind you to be grateful, achieve goals, or savor the moment; the app has been shown to increase positive emotions and leaves many users with lifted spirits after two months.

"As a mom and wife, I sometimes need to focus on myself for a change. This helps me do things that are good for my mental well-being."

- ADDitude reader

10. EasyReader

The world's most accessible reading app

Free

iOS, Android, Windows

https://yourdolphin.com/en-gb/products/individuals/families/easyreader/

EasyReader helps children who need to hear the words they are reading. By listening to a text while reading it, students can improve their comprehension and increase their fluency and reading speed over time. The app connects you with accessible libraries, including Bookshare, an online library with more than 660,000 titles for people with dyslexia, vision impairments, physical disabilities, or other issues that get in the way of their reading. Copy and paste passages, and the app will read them aloud in an easily comprehensible voice. You can also highlight texts and change the color and size of words, making this a good tool for students who have vision impairments or low vision.

Chapter 7: Reading, Writing, and Math

Mobile apps designed to help your child develop stronger academic skills and compensate for ADHD-related challenges at school.

1. Voice Dream Reader

Stories for struggling readers \$14.99; \$4.99 for in-app purchases iOS, Android http://www.voicedream.com/reader/

<u>Voice Dream</u> is the undisputed leader in text-to-speech technology. Now, struggling readers — or anyone on-the-go — can listen to PDF and Word documents, eBooks, articles, and Web pages anywhere. With more than 186 voices to choose from — and 30 different languages — this reading tool can work well for almost any child or adult. Plus, the app offers synchronized highlighting, which improves comprehension, knowledge retention, and sight-word recognition. You can pause the text, quickly rewind, or adjust the speed to your liking, too!

2. Read & Write Gold

A serious tool for literacy skills

Prices start at \$145

iOS, Android, Mac, PC

https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-write/

Read & Write is a family of literacy software, similar to Voice Dream, but with a few extra features that make it a worthy competitor. Not only does the app read on-screen text aloud — allowing reluctant readers or people with dyslexia to get information quickly and accurately — but it also boasts word-prediction software, "Speak As I Type" technology, and a picture dictionary to help with email and essay writing. The price point is on the higher end, but its versatility makes Read & Write a reliable tool for anyone with ADHD or learning disabilities.

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READER RECOMMENDATION

"I use a large variety of apps for reading, writing and math. Sky Fish is a favorite of my students. In addition, we enjoy using Starfall, Nessy, PBS Kids, interactive books, and I Spy games."

3. Bugs and Buttons 2

Numbers made fun, and fuzzy \$2.99 iOS, Android, Amazon, Nook https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bugs-and-buttons-2/id686968315?mt=8

<u>Bugs and Buttons 2</u> is a math and writing game for young kids who struggle with these skills, or could use practice with critical thinking. Your child will love the bright graphics, quick timed "mini-games," and getting to explore the tiny world of bugs — without actually having to touch a bug! Parents will appreciate that the app encourages strong attention to detail.

"I love it for my 9- and 6-year-old boys. They do not know that they are learning math strategies." — **ADDitude reader**

4. News-O-Matic

Current events — made compelling Free for trial version, then \$3.99/month or \$34.99/year iOS, Android https://www.newsomatic.org

News and current events just aren't interesting or captivating to most kids — ADHD or not. Enter News-O-Matic, a dynamic app that delivers the news in short, bite-sized chunks — perfect for older kids with ADHD enrolled in civics or history classes that require daily news consumption. While the stories range from funny to serious, a child psychologist reviews all content to make sure it's age appropriate. The app also includes readaloud options for children who struggle with reading, and Spanish translation services for non-native English speakers.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Epic! is great! My daughter gets an endless library of books that she loves, and they even have a section she can listen to while trying to sleep. It is the best app I have for her."

[&]quot;My seven-year-old loves to read the news. She uses it at school, too."

⁻ ADDitude reader

5. Math vs. Zombies

Attack of the undead equations \$4.99 iOS, Android http://taptolearn.com

This app is so much fun, your kid may even turn down an ice cream break! In this game, the world is overrun with zombies and only you can send them packing — by using your math skills, of course. Math vs. Zombies asks players to quickly solve math equations to transform an approaching zombie horde back into happy kids. In the process, users practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The game has four worlds, each with 21 levels.

"I'm an elementary math specialist and this app promotes procedural fluency for students while being presented in an engaging, game format." — **ADDitude reader**

6. Sushi Monster

Math skills for a refined palate

Free

iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sushi-monster/id512651258?mt=8

Sushi Monster, from Scholastic, is a great app for younger learners. Numbers appear on sushi plates fed via conveyer belt to a "sushi monster." Players are given a series of sums and products. They must "feed" the correct combination of numbers to the monster to reach each target sum or product. Game play is designed to improve proficiency and speed. Players are graded based on correct answers, as well as accuracy and time. A child can earn points, stars, and trophies, and achieve personal bests to unlock new levels.

DO THE MATH!

Make math fun for your child by incorporating interactive math games.
Learn how at http://additu.de/math-games/

7. Motion Math Zoom

Putting numbers into perspective \$2.99 iOS

http://motionmathgames.com/motion-math-zoom/

If your child is struggling to understand decimals and place value, as many kids do, Motion Math Zoom is a smart app choice. The app features a zoomable, stretchable number line, on which dinosaurs, amoebas, and a zoo full of animals represent abstract numbers. Some of the numbers are missing, so players have to move numbers around into the proper combination of positives, negatives, and decimals. Research suggests that understanding the number line helps a child develop his math ability — and this fun app is a great place to start!

8. LetterSchool

Making the alphabet come to life Free to download; \$2.99-\$9.00 to unlock additional features iOS, Android https://www.letterschool.org

LetterSchool's cheerful design, colorful animations, and easy-to-follow lessons keep young writers focused and engaged. Before forming a letter on their own, kids tap dots that show its formation. The game's next level requires users to trace the letter on the screen. Each completed letter becomes animated. Children are then encouraged to form letters without any guides or dots, and they are awarded stars for each letter mastered. This reward system, paired with the fun visuals and sound, really motivates young children.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Find tools to help your child master writing at http://additu.de/ke/

9. Photomath

The on-the-go math tutor Free for basic version; \$2.99-\$19.99 for in-app purchases iOS, Android https://photomath.net/en/

Your child needs the occasional math guidance, but your last Algebra 2 class was 25 years ago. A better tutor might be the Photomath app, which can help a struggling student learn or reinforce math skills during homework time. Simply take a picture of the problem, and the app will solve — and explain — the final answer. This may seem like cheating — and it's true that this tool may be dangerous if not properly monitored — but the app's step-by-step instructions and straightforward tips can also help your child feel clear and confident about every problem.

10. Writing Wizard

Sound it out, write it out \$4.49-\$4.99 iOS, Android https://lescapadou.com

Like LetterSchool, <u>Writing Wizard</u> features animated letter demonstrations, outline tracing, and freehand writing exercises — but its unique bells and whistles are noteworthy. Parents can customize lessons for their kids, creating word lists and recording their own voice to help children sound out letters as they write. Once a writing activity is complete, children are awarded one of four different mini-games. And once they learn the basics, parents can tweak the settings to make the app more challenging. New settings can require clearer handwriting, and offer less demonstration.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Monkey World School
Adventure is really fun, has
a variety of games, a good
variety of words, and best
of all a great reward system
— a terrarium where you
can choose butterflies,
plants, frogs, and more to
add!"

Chapter 8: Homework & Schoolwork

Mobile apps designed to help your child log, complete, and track homework more accurately and effectively.

1. myHomework

Total homework transparency and mobility Free for basic version; \$4.99/year for Premium iOS, Android, Kindle, Mac, PC https://myhomeworkapp.com

For students who forget to write down assignments or turn them in on time, we like the reasonably priced (or free, if you're okay with advertisements) myHomework app. It tracks class schedules, homework assignments, and upcoming tests — and notifies your child when something is due. If your school chooses to participate, the app can also alert you to school announcements or let you download documents the school has shared — in other words, no more lost permission slips!

"I do prefer to keep homework in the **myHomework** app — it's great for keeping up with and planning out assignments." — **ADDitude reader**

2. Notability

Record, revisit, retain \$9.99 iOS, Mac http://gingerlabs.com

Notability is a useful note-taking app that will seriously boost your child's in-class retention abilities. The app allows him to record the audio of a show or lecture, while he simultaneously takes notes on his iPad. Later, when he's reviewing, he can click on a part of the notes and listen to any key points he may have missed. Your child's teacher may not be thrilled at him using an iPad in class, but the improved note-taking abilities — and subsequent test grades — may be enough to change her mind!

READER RECOMMENDATION

"I have used ABCMouse. com with my younger two children, who greatly enjoy this application. Their hand-eye coordination has developed far faster than their older brothers' had at the same age."

3. Flashcards Deluxe

Quiz yourself anytime, anywhere \$3.99 iOS, Android http://flashcardsdeluxe.com/flashcards/

Anyone who struggles with working memory will love this user-friendly flashcard app that's infinitely customizable — and easy to use. Create your own flashcards, or download pre-made sets from a library of more than 4 million collections. Then program <u>Flashcards Deluxe</u> to focus on the cards you're stumbling over or remove cards from the rotation once you've mastered them.

4. StudyBlue

Practice tests – but smarter
Free to download; \$19/month or \$84/year to unlock additional features
iOS, Android
https://www.studyblue.com

<u>StudyBlue</u> is the ultimate study app. With its myriad study modes, it can help your child take practice quizzes, review worksheets, or flip through flashcards. The app also boasts a built-in content library so your child can search related material and learn more about any topic. Create an account to access StudyBlue anywhere, making it perfect for a dedicated night of work or a quick review session on the way to school.

5. Popplet

Outlining made intuitive \$4.99 iOS http://popplet.com

For visual learners, traditional outlining techniques for essays or large projects seldom work. Enter <u>Popplet</u>, the brainstorming app built for people who need to see and touch their ideas. Your child can make mind maps, diagrams, or "mood boards" — anything that helps her organize her thoughts in a more cohesive way. The simple interface keeps up with her racing brain, making outlining essays and projects much quicker and more intuitive.

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READER RECOMMENDATION

"My children use Quizlet for exams and bibliographies for papers. They help a lot for reviewing already covered information, and for reducing the tedium of writing accurate bibliographies."

6. iRewardChart

Sweet, sweet motivation
Free for basic version; \$3.99 for Premium
iOS, Android
http://irewardchart.com

Children with ADHD often struggle with motivation — particularly when it comes to homework, a challenging task for which there often is no inherent reward. Now, parents can use <u>iRewardChart</u> to give their child that extra boost needed to stay on top of homework or other challenging chores. Input your child's goals into the app, track his progress, and help him earn stars toward personalized rewards. You can tailor the rewards to your child's unique interests, and the fun visual interface of the app will keep him engaged — and keep his motivation up.

"I just started using the free app **iRewardChart**, which is a rewards chart that you customize for your own needs. We are focusing on grade improvement using points earned for doing in-class work, handing in work, doing homework on time, and being respectful at school." — **B.L.**

7. Docs to Go

Microsoft Office on your tablet Free for basic version; \$16.99 for Premium iOS, Android, Amazon, Mac, PC http://www.dataviz.com/docs-to-go/

Does your child struggle to sit still at the computer while typing up a long book report? Does he prefer to do his work sitting under the table or laying on the floor? Now you can bring the book report to him — wherever he works best — with Docs to Go! Any Word, Excel, PowerPoint, or PDF file can be transferred to your tablet, so your kid can work on his homework wherever he feels most productive.

TOP 5 HOMEWORK FRUSTRATIONS

Is your child a Rushing Ryan? Or a Distractible David? Learn how to overcome common homework challenges at http://additu.de/frustrations/

8. Boximize

Templates for taking notes \$9.99 iOS http://boximize.com

This time-saving app simplifies and improves the process of taking accurate notes. Kids choose from a selection of pre-made templates including "Events," "Notes," and "Exercise Log." Then, instead of writing a free-form note, they fill in fields like "location," "list of items," and "audio notes." They can customize templates or create their own from scratch. More than merely a stack-of-paper-notes-gone-digital, <u>Boximize's</u> simple interface allows the easily searchable notes to comprise a "personal database."

9. DIY

Whatever it is, learn it *Free iOS*https://diy.org

DIY is a safe, family-friendly, easy-to-navigate online community where kids can learn new skills, post their artwork, and take courses on subjects ranging from "Invent Your Own Machines" to "Become a Music Star." Kids can share feedback, make friends, and earn patches for completing any of several hundred "challenges." And parents can take heart: The app's team takes safety seriously, and moderates the community closely to make sure there's no "funny business" — including inappropriate content, bullying, or spam.

STUDY SMARTER

Help your child review important information without cramming, at http://additu.de/ii/

10.30/30

Chunk up the tough stuff
Free; Can purchase additional icons
iOS
http://3030.binaryhammer.com

Is it a timer? Yes. Is it a to-do list? Yes. Can you save lists and does it sync across your iOS devices? Yes and yes! 30/30 is a great little app, with an appealing gesture-based interface that kids love. The app's simple design allows your child to break up homework into manageable chunks by setting up a list of tasks and an amount of time needed for each one. Your child can use it to check in and easily figure out what she's supposed to be doing and how much time she needs to do it.

"My 13-year-old son uses the **30/30** app in his homeschooling. The visual aid of seeing the time pass helps him stay on track and not keep checking on how much time is left on a task." — **Maureen M.**

"30/30 has been a life changer for me. It allows me to make categories in my life like errands, honey-do projects, cleaning the apartment. Then, within the category, I can create simple short tasks with durations, like straighten living room: 5 minutes. When I am working in a category, the first item on the list of tasks comes up and I turn on its timer. Trying to beat the clock keeps my inattentive nature focused."

— ADDitude reader

READER RECOMMENDATION

"Match 10 is great. My son introduced me to it, and I got hooked too!"

The Forgotten Apps

Google offers a suite of apps and extensions for its Chrome browser that promise to change the way students and non-students alike use the web, create documents, and manage time.

by Janet DeSenzo
Based on ADDitude's 2016 <u>assistive technologies webinar</u>

Many school districts in the United States are becoming Google Apps for Education districts. What this means is that, on their school-issued or home-provided Chromebooks, the schools are giving students access to a suite of free productivity tools for classroom collaboration. Included in this suite are standard tools like Google Docs, Gmail, and Google Calendar, as well as education-specific apps including the following:

- <u>Classroom</u>: A digital mission control where teachers can create classes, distribute assignments, send feedback, and more.
- Google Hangouts: A virtual meeting program that allows participants to see each other in real time, share their screens, and chat as a group.
- Sites: A way to create fast, easy web sites for special projects or classes.

Anyone with a Gmail account has access to all of these tools already — and might not even know about it. To begin browsing, visit the Chrome Web Store. There, you will find apps very similar to the tools you use in Microsoft Office. If you're used to using Microsoft Outlook, Google's equivalent is the omnipresent Gmail. If you're familiar with PowerPoint, Google uses something called Google Slides. For Excel users, Google has Google Sheets.

The real beauty of this is that whenever you use one of these tools, your work is saved by default to Google Drive, which is cloud-based. That means it is saved on servers outside of your device. So if something happens to your computer — if it crashes, if you leave your device at school, or if your battery dies — you can still get

to all of these tools on any other device using the Chrome browser. For people with ADHD, who tend to be forgetful, Google Drive can be a lifesaver.

In addition to apps, the Google Chrome Store also carries thousands of extensions, which are mini programs that work along with whatever website you have open. These live right in your Chrome browser window, beside the web site address. Here are a few of our favorite extensions:

- 1. <u>Mercury Reader</u>: This is a great tool for folks who are easily distracted by too much information on the screen. Just click the extension's little icon in your browser and it will strip out all of the ads in the right and left columns, as well as other "clutter," for a more comfortable reading view. It also lets you save articles for reading later, tag articles to keep them organized, and send articles to your Kindle.
- 2. <u>SpeakIt!</u>: This is a powerful speech-to-text extension for folks who have trouble focusing on reading silently. Any text that you can select in a website, SpeakIt! will read it aloud.
- **3.** <u>Timer</u>: If you're really trying to exercise some self-discipline and stay focused for a certain amount of time, you can turn on this timer extension and set it for 5 or 10 minutes. A little box pops up underneath the clock to show you how much time is left for your task.
- 4. <u>Strict Workflow</u>: This is a focus tool that locks you out of certain websites and, therefore, forces you to stay on task (as long as you're using the Chrome web browser). Let's say, for example, your student is trying to work on a research paper and they think, "I need to just quickly check my Twitter." Strict Workflow allows you to blacklist certain websites (like Twitter) for a specific amount of time.

The tool comes preloaded with Facebook, Twitter, Reddit and other websites that are commonly seen as huge distractions and it forces you to lock those websites out for 25 minutes. Why? According to the Pomodoro Technique, 25 minutes is the perfect amount of time for staying focused. After those 25 minutes are up, it releases those websites and it shows you a little announcement that says, "Your time is up now. Take a 5-minute break." If you do try to go to those websites while you have a tab open and the timer is counting down, it will say, "Get back to work. Stay focused. This website is blocked."

Finally, I would highly recommend **Voice Typing**, which is the voice recognition technology built in to all Google Docs. If you have a child who needs to write an

essay — or even just a paragraph! — and you know they struggle with typing, this may be something to look into.

To activate Voice Typing, open a Google Doc and visit the Tools pull-down menu to turn on the microphone for Voice Typing. It will ask, "Can I have permission to use your microphone?" Click "Allow," then start speaking; it will type out everything you say. It's highly accurate for a technology that doesn't require any kind of voice training, so if you have a child who is very frustrated by keyboarding and can think and speak much faster than they can type, this is a great way to help them express their thoughts.

Chapter 9: College Survival

Mobile apps designed to help your maturing student stay on top of schoolwork, juggle new responsibilities, and navigate her newfound independence.

1. EpicWin

#winning at life \$1.99 iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/epicwin/id372927221/

<u>EpicWin</u> is a cross between a digital organizer and a role-playing video game that transforms your daily homework pile into a pile of fun! Choose an avatar that appeals to you, then select a task to accomplish. As tasks are completed, players pick up points, "treasures," and loot. The video-game elements appeal to the ADHD brain and motivate you to keep going, particularly if you have a competitive streak.

2. I Can't Wake Up!

You need it, but you'll hate it Free for basic version; \$1.99 for Pro iOS, Android http://kogcreations.com

In college, no one is there to pull back the covers if you sleep through all your alarms, especially when varying class schedules require your ADHD brain to be alert at 10:00 one day and 7:00 the next! ICan't Wake Up! is an application that forces your brain to start working the second your alarm goes off — making it harder for you to sleep through important lectures. You have to do eight wake-up tasks before the alarm is silenced, and a tricky "Awake Test" checks in on you a few minutes later to make sure you're still up. The app features customizable sounds and a Smooth Wake Up function: the volume and brightness increase slowly, so you're not rudely jolted from your snooze.

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APPLICATION ANXIETY

Help your teen manage stress and get into the college of her dreams! Learn more at http://additu. de/apply/

3. SelfControl

Because Facebook is hard to resist *Free Mac*http://selfcontrolapp.com

Without Mom or Dad hovering, more than one college student has gotten lost in the Internet for hours at a time — even when there are essays to be written and books to be read. **SelfControl**, a free Mac application, is great for anyone easily distracted by Facebook or Twitter during homework or study time. SelfControl allows you to block tempting websites for a predetermined amount of time. It's great for keeping yourself on track, even if you have poor impulse control — even if you restart the device or delete the app, you still won't be able to access the sites until the time is up!

"**SelfControl** does a more subtle version of the same thing as the app Freedom. It was great for working on my dissertation, because I could access certain research sites, but nothing else." — **ADDitude reader**

4. Medisafe

Get the most from your medication
Free for basic version; \$4.99-\$39.99 for Premium versions
iOS, Android
https://medisafe.com

College students with ADHD enjoy their newfound independence — until they realize they forgot to take their medication for three days in a row. Remembering to take medication, and to reorder it when it runs out, is a huge challenge when you have organization and memory problems. But college kids can learn this critical life skill — and luckily, there's an app for that! Medisafe is an easy way to reinforce independent medication habits. It starts by educating you about your condition, and why you need medicine. Then, it uses easy-to-follow reminders, helpful strategies, and progress tracking to help college students adapt and learn new behaviors. Plus, doctors can use Medisafe too, to keep track of how well their patient is adhering to a medication schedule. Keeping up with treatment has never been easier!

COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

For more tools and tips for getting through college with ADHD, check out our resource center at http:// additu.de/college/

5. Cal

A beautiful calendar with a personal touch *Free iOS*, *Android* https://www.any.do/cal/

<u>Cal</u>, by the makers of Any.do, is an intuitive calendar and socializing app, perfect for the college student with ADHD. Cal shows you your day's schedule at a glance, allowing you to get a chronological sense of what's on your plate for the day (or month). Forget birthdays? Cal integrates your friend's birthdays, and allows you to send well wishes over social media with just one click. It's also great for planning events — you can invite friends, pick a spot, and send updates, all in one easy-to-use app.

"I love **Cal**. My entire family uses it for school and personal activities. We can't live without it!" — **ADDitude reader**

6. Go To Bed

It knows what's good for you
Free
iOS

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/go-to-bed/id765141890?mt=8

It's 1 a.m. and you're hyperfocused on a BuzzFeed quiz when you should be sleeping. Sound familiar? Sometimes drifting off isn't the problem, it's the getting to bed part that trips you up. That's where <u>Go To Bed</u> comes in. Based on information about your age and wake-up times, Go To Bed reminds you when you should start preparing to hit the sack. Sometimes a friendly reminder is all it takes to break that hyperfocus.

"I've only just started using this, but it helps me to be more aware of time. I can stay up way too late if I don't pay attention to what time it is." — **ADDitude reader**

EXPERT WEBINAR

Listen to the recording of "The College Transition," with expert Theresa Maitland, Ph.D., at http:// additu.de/college-transition/

7. EasyBib

Bibliographies, without the anguish Free for basic version; \$9.99/month for Pro Android, Web http://www.easybib.com

EasyBib simplifies the process of citing sources in college papers by generating perfect and accurate citations in MLA, APA, Chicago, or Harvard style — plus 7,000 more we've scarcely heard of. EasyBib is easy to use: either input the info yourself, search by title, or scan the book barcode. Email the sources to yourself or insert them directly into your paper, so you can spend less time worrying about your bibliography, and more time on what's really important.

"My oldest, though only 11, has used this application as part of his 4H project. It has been extremely helpful in figuring out how to cite edited books, compilations, and other sources without a single author."

- ADDitude reader

8. Eidetic

For those of us without photographic memories Free for basic version; \$4.99 for Pro iOS

http://eideticapp.com

Add vital information to your long-term memory — and study smarter than ever — using <u>Eidetic</u>. This app uses a technique called "spaced repetition" to help you memorize anything in your chosen timeframe. Unlike other brain-training apps, Eidetic helps you memorize items that have real meaning and context in your own life. The app is perfect for college students who need help memorizing facts for exams, or for simply remembering new names and phone numbers.

READER RECOMMENDATION

"RoboForm keeps all my passwords and auto-fills them in webpages and programs. I only have to remember one master password!"

9. Pocket

Save it for later Free for basic version; \$4.99/month-\$44.99/year for Premium iOS, Android, Kobo, Web https://getpocket.com

When completing schoolwork online, it's easy to follow a catchy headline down a rabbit hole and suddenly lose half a day. To avoid this trap, use <u>Pocket</u> to save that cute bunny video or sports recap until you have a scheduled break. Store links, videos, and more from your browser, Twitter, or Facebook feed to keep your day on track without missing out on the funniest meme ever.

10. Forest

The strongest tree wins \$1.99 iOS, Android http://www.forestapp.cc

Forest is an app that helps students stay off their phones when schoolwork must come first. Here's how it works: When you want to concentrate, you plant a seed in Forest. Over the next 30 minutes, this small seed will grow into a large tree; however, if you can't resist the temptation to watch a You-Tube video or play a game on your phone, your lovely little tree will wither away. If you need a little extra motivation to keep your trees alive and well, you can compete with your Facebook friends to see who can maintain focus the longest.

"Forest allows my high schooler to set a timer on her phone for studying without interruption. A tree 'grows' while the timer is going, but if she interrupts her work to answer a tempting text, phone call, Instagram post, etc., the tree dies. She can view her daily 'orchard' to see how many blossoming trees (versus how many dead trees) she has earned. The app has additional motivating perks that allow the user to accumulate time and 'buy' other types of trees, too. The app helps with impulsive behavior and lets our teen create doable study/focus periods. It gives her control and feedback. She is very proud to display her orchard, especially when she has demanding days of study for midterms and finals." — cr2

Chapter 10: Parental Control

Mobile apps designed to help parents teach their children safe internet practices and put restrictions in place to guide them.

1. OurPact: Parental Control and Kid Tracker

Designed with the busy family in mind Free for basic version, \$1.99–\$6.99 monthly for Premium versions iOS, Android https://ourpact.com

This all-around app solution is highly rated by parents for its site restrictions, screen-time management, and geolocation tools. It's free to use, but requires a monthly payment for access to premium features. Parents access a family dashboard that shows device locations; sends alerts when your child arrives or leaves a set zone — like school or home; blocks adult websites, apps, texting, or the internet; schedules screen time; and tracks a pre-set daily screen allowance. **OurPact** doesn't monitor everything your child does on the Internet, but it can help set device limits and make exploring online a little safer.

2. WebWatcher

Monitor any device from anywhere Free iOS, Android, Mac, Chrome, PC

Being a responsible digital parent means knowing your child's activity across various devices. A <u>WebWatcher</u> account allows you to discreetly monitor multiple types of devices risk-free. All monitored data is recorded and sent to your account to view at your convenience, and an "Alert Log" highlights items identified as risky behavior. WebWatcher helps protect your children from online and offline dangers including: online predators, cyber bulling, drug & alcohol use, suicidal behaviors, and other inappropriate actions. WebWatcher can be installed on two or more devices and all data is compiled into a single report for your convenience.

3. Norton Family Premier

Instilling healthy online habits \$49.99 annually iOS, Android, Windows https://us.norton.com/norton-family-premier/

Known best for its antivirus software, Norton is also a major player in the parental control space. Your subscription works on unlimited devices, which is popular among large families with multiple phones or tablets per person. Install without limitations on any computer, tablet, or phone your child uses. The feature that sets Norton apart is its nuanced website control. In addition to site blocking, location monitoring, and time limits, this solution offers site logs – including YouTube video lists and snippets. It keeps track of the sites your child visits, and allows you to issue warnings for ones that you don't want to completely ban, but would rather your child not spend hours and hours scrolling through – like Reddit. If kids disagree, they can submit an access request for parents to review from within the app. It also offers Instant Lock, which renders devices useless without an access pin. Screen-time limits apply across all devices, but are not compatible with Macs. Call and text tracking is less invasive than some programs. Instead of blanket tracking, it lets you choose select conversations to monitor. Some reviews say the web extension that limits access is easily disabled by crafty teens.

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4. FamilyTime

The future of smart digital parenting Free to \$69 annually iOS, Android https://familytime.io

The subscription cost for FamilyTime is device-based, meaning the price goes up every time you install it on another phone or tablet. Parents can use this to block apps and set screen-time rules for mobile devices. The program also allows kids to "save" minutes from their daily limit to use later during designated "FunTime" like on holidays or weekends. Family-Time also boasts tools to protect your kids in real life: a panic button that automatically sends you location information, a "Teen Safe Drive" feature that monitors and reports on vehicle speed, and a "watch list" that alerts you if certain designated people contact your kids. This app cannot monitor activity on home computers — Macs or PCs — and doesn't offer a site log of Internet activity.

5. Qustodio

The easiest way to supervise online Free for basic version, \$39.95-\$96.95 for Premium versions iOS, Mac, Android, Windows, Kindle https://www.qustodio.com/en/

Qustodio is your child's Internet custodian. It blocks inappropriate content across browsers — even in private mode — and shows a timeline with previews of all the sites your child visits. You can set limits for screen time across all devices, with schedules for total device and specific app usage capped by a total time allotment across all devices. The program monitors time spent on social networks including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, and more. It offers call and text monitoring, along with location tracking and a panic button your child can use to call for help.

It works on the Kindle if you want to protect Amazon devices. The pricing plan, however, is expensive for a family with many devices.

6. Net Nanny

Allows the good, keeps out the bad \$9-\$39.99 per device iOS, Mac, Android, Windows https://www.netnanny.com

Net Nanny offers advanced web-filtering categories that can evaluate when certain terms are used profanely or in a medical context. You can set content as block, warn, or allow — and choose to mask swear words with symbols on unrestricted sites. The program uses email alerts to keep parents up to date. Kids can request access to a site, and then parents can remotely approve or uphold the block. Detailed site logs make it easy to tell when you need to speak with your child about inappropriate content. Parents can determine certain days and times when each user may access his or her devices, or set a total amount of allotted weekly time in half hour increments. Net Nanny applies time limits to overall Internet usage across all devices and platforms. There aren't app-specific controls for iOS, so phone games and social-media use are less regulated. This service does not offer location monitoring options.

7. Kaspersky Safe Kids

Lookout for your kids online and beyond Free for basic version, \$14.99 for Premium iOS, Mac, Android, Windows https://usa.kaspersky.com/safe-kids/

Kaspersky Safe Kids works by installing complementary apps on both your and your child's devices, allowing you to see reports and customize settings. It offers typical features like screen-time restrictions, controlled access to certain apps, adult content filters, and location tracking. It also tracks public activity on Facebook, and provides call and text message screening for Android devices. Limitations exist on iOS platforms. The app has extensive alert functionality. You can set safe areas for your child on a map and receive instant alerts if he or she leaves the designated zone. The battery monitor alerts you when your child's battery is low so you can remind her to plug in her device.

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8. Boomerang

Taking the battle out of screen time Free 14-day trial, \$15.99/device, \$30.99 for Family Pack iOS, Android https://useboomerang.com

Boomerang automatically includes safe search when your child is using its proprietary browser. In addition, you can monitor YouTube activity and search history. When installed, it can block any new apps your child tries to download until you explicitly approve them, and encourage usage of always-approved apps. Parents may set a daily screen time allocation and a schedule for when usage is allowed — including a bedtime shutoff time. You may also set ad hoc time outs that disable all device features except emergency calling until parental approval is granted. Unlike many location-tracking programs, Boomerang lets you to create custom-drawn geofence limits and then receive a notification if your child violates those boundaries. Call and text tracking can be less invasive — Boomerang lets you choose select conversations or words to monitor on Android devices, or to collect a total SMS history. You can also select who your child can and can't communicate with. It is mobile-only, so any protections you set up don't extend to desktop computers.

9. Locategy

Mobile security and control for real people *Free to \$70 iOS*, *Android* https://locategy.com

Locategy allows parents to set up a usage schedule to control which apps your child is allowed to use, for how long, and when — e.g., not during school or at dinner time. Advanced location tracking provides data on where you child is at any moment, along with historical locations for the past four days. Use geofencing to designate set areas your child is allowed to visit, and receive an alert when your child arrives in certain locations. Locategy allows for multiple "parent" devices, so tutors or sitters can track children, too. You can remotely wipe a phone if your child loses her device. This service allows for call log tracking, and web usage reports, but doesn't let parents block contact with certain numbers. The geofencing features are more robust in iOS, and web filtering capabilities don't work in all browsers.

10. ScreenTime

Manage screen time from afar Free for basic version, \$4.99/month for premium iOS, Android, Amazon Kindle Fire Devices https://screentimelabs.com

Considering that 95% of teenagers with phones check social media at night, parents needs to draw clear boundaries early on. The ScreenTime App provides simple management tools that allow parents to monitor their child's device usage without having to argue or pester. ScreenTime can answer questions like "What apps are my kids using and for how long?" "Which websites are they visiting — are they safe and appropriate?" With ScreenTime, you can set daily time limits for your child to avoid excessive usage, schedule periods of time for activities such as homework, approve and reject apps, and monitor search history. All you need is one account to track your family's devices and you can invite your partner or other caregivers to manage with you.

11. Mobicip

Designed for the modern multi-device family Free for basic version, \$4.99–\$89.99 for Premium version iOS, Mac, Android, Windows, Kindle, Chromebook https://www.mobicip.com

Mobicip is notable for its wide device compatibility. It is an overall good choice for families who want non-invasive protection — recommended by Wes Crenshaw, Ph.D. Mobicip provides nuanced Internet controls, but lacks certain features other parental control apps include. For example, it doesn't offer real-time parent notifications, remote approval, or call/text monitoring. When using the Mobicip browser, the web filter will analyze sites and then block offensive parts or entire sites. Take control of what video content your child can access via popular streaming services with robust YouTube filtering, and view logs of her web browsing history as well. You can schedule approved usage times, block designated apps and sites, and track your child's location. There is no daily or weekly limit for maximum usage — users set a schedule by selecting hours of the day when device usage is OK. Mobicip allows for two "parent" devices to keep everyone in the loop. Changes in the parent dashboard can take a couple hours to filter down to the child device.

More *ADDitude* eBooks Available Now

www.additudemag.com/shop

Getting Things Done with Adult ADHD

Comprehensive strategies for everything from managing to-do lists to overcoming ADHD-related procrastination.

You're not lazy, selfish, or apathetic — you have ADHD, a condition that causes problems with executive functions like planning, decision-making, and hitting deadlines. In order to overcome your deficit and manage day-to-day tasks productively, you need strategies that make sense to you — not the rest of the world. This eBook provides just that: ADHD-tested time-management plans that don't try to shove square pegs into round holes.

>> Learn more about this special report: http://additu.de/gtd

ADHD Medication and Treatment

The latest information on managing medication, starting behavior therapy, evaluating alternative treatments, and more.

You're relieved to know, finally, that your or your child's symptoms are due to ADHD. But now, you have questions — on everything from which medications are available to how to tell if they're working properly. In this comprehensive special report, you'll learn how to seek an accurate diagnosis and plan a treatment plan that's right for you or your child.

>> Learn more about this special report: http://additu.de/treatment

Mindfulness and Other Natural Treatments

The best non-medical treatments for ADHD, including exercise, green time, and mindful meditation.

Learn how mindfulness works on ADHD brains, and how to begin practicing it today. Plus, research the benefits of other alternative treatments like yoga and deep breathing exercises — including some designed especially for kids — as well as the science behind each natural therapy.

>> Learn more about this special report: http://additu.de/mindful

FREE ADDitude Downloads

Brain-Building Video and Computer Games Kids Love

Help your gamer pick programs that boost attention and executive skills.

The Daily Routine that Works for Adults with ADHD

Build a system that keeps your day humming along

Self-Test for Women: Do I Have ADHD?

ADHD looks different across genders. Find out if you (or your daughter) are showing signs.

14 Ways to Help Your Child Make Friends

Build your child's social skills with these easy-to-use tips.

Is It Adult ADHD?

Habitually disorganized? Always running late? It could be ADHD.

Smart Comebacks

Witty responses to ADHD doubters.

It's Not ADHD

Doctors are sometimes too quick to diagnose ADHD. Read up on common misdiagnoses.

Find these and many more free ADHD resources online at:

http://additu.de/ freedownloads

ADHD Webinar Replays from ADDitude:

Download This! Assistive Technology for Teens with ADHD

>> http://additu.de/assistive

Young adults today are overbooked. They juggle more academic demands, extracurricular activities, after-school jobs, and social and family responsibilities than any generation had before. Add ADHD to that mix, and it's no wonder our kids benefit so hugely from technology tools and strategies designed to keep them focused, organized, and on-task.

Neurofeedback and Cognitive Training for ADHD Kids

>> http://additu.de/neuro

Is brain training — including neurofeedback and cognitive training (CT) — really all it's cracked up to be? Is it safe for kids? Is it worth the money? Naomi Steiner, M.D., shares the research behind some computer-based alternative therapies so you can make an informed decision before treating your child.

Beyond Minecraft: The Best Games & Apps for ADHD or LD

>> http://additu.de/play-diet

In many ADHD households, Minecraft is more than a hobby; it's an obsession. And while anything in excess is worrisome, the game itself can help to build executive function skills, processing speeds, and working memory — if used in conjunction with a balanced play "diet." But Minecraft is not the only tool at your disposal — learn what other games can help your child build skills!

7 Fixes for Self-Defeating ADHD Behaviors

>> http://additu.de/brown

Are your bad habits setting you up for failure? Find out what behaviors to watch for, and seven simple changes that can help you reach your full potential and put you on the path to success. Entrepreneur and ADHD coach Alan Brown teaches "fix-it" strategies that he used to cope with his own ADHD.

We're Engaged! How to Turn Your Boredom Into Action

>> http://additu.de/boredom

ADHD brains are forever seeking physical or mental stimulation. When you're bored, it can literally sap your motivation to continue. Learn how to avoid the pitfalls of boredom, boost your executive functions, and keep your mind focused and productive with this expert webinar from Jeff Copper!

FREE ADHD Newsletters from ADDitude

Sign up to receive critical news and information about ADHD diagnosis and treatment, plus strategies for school, parenting, and living better with ADHD:

http://additu.de/newsletter

Adult ADHD and LD

Expert advice on managing your household, time, money, career, and relationships

Parenting Children with ADHD or LD

Behavior and discipline, time management, disorganization, making friends, and more critical strategies for parents

ADHD and LD at School

How to get classroom accommodations, finish homework, work with teachers, find the right schools, and much more

Treating ADHD

Treatment options including medications, food, supplements, brain training, mindfulness and other alternative therapies

For Women with ADHD

Managing ADHD on the job, running a household, dealing with challenging emotions, and much more.