Christmas
survival guide tips

When trying to keep your children entertained in the run up to Christmas, you may find yourself looking for festive apps to keep them amused. The website **A Day in Our Shoes** has produced a list of 20 fun, educational, Christmas apps for children and young people with additional needs. Included in the recommended list are apps that work on vocabulary building, picture identification, and much more.

Click on the link below for more information.

https://adayinourshoes.com/christmas-apps/

Festive Apps for all the family

See below a selection of suggested Christmas apps that can be accessed by all the family.

Toca hair salon – Christmas Gives you the opportunity to cut, colour and style Santa's hair and beard. This special Christmas Edition allows you to choose between styling Santa and creating a Christmas Tree. The app is free to download, and is available for Apple devices only.

Christmas tree Allows you to decorate your very own Christmas Tree with a variety of different ornaments. There are calming sound effects and different festive backdrops to choose from. The app is free to download, and allows you to decorate several trees at a time, so all the family can get involved.

Christmas countdown 2018 Tells you how many days, weeks, hours, minutes, seconds and heartbeats until Christmas. Choose characters like Santa, Penguin and Snowman.

Message from Santa! Free personalised phone call or video message from Santa Claus. Send and receive text messages with Santa, or leave him a voicemail with a wish list.

i Get... Christmas social skills stories Provides a photo social skill story for children needing support in understanding the process of Christmas. It can be individualised for the user by adding your own photos.

Manage Christmas A Christmas gift list manager for those wanting to stick to a budget and organise their gift ideas and purchases.

NORAD tracks Santa Claus Watch the days countdown to the start of Santa's Yuletide journey around the world; play games, read stories and more.

Sensory Apps

Sensory Apphouse has produced a range of sensory apps that have been designed to help with relaxation, developing communication, and stimulation. All of their apps are switch accessible and can be accessed by Apple and Android users.

For more information about the apps they offer and where to download them, click on the link below. **https://www.sensoryapphouse.com/**

Other Sensory Apps include: Fun Bubbles, Fluidity, Light Box, Art of Glow, and iLoveFireworks.

Images from www.freepik.com

Internet and social media safety

At The SNAP Centre and on the SNAP helpline we are often asked for help with this particular issue. Increasingly, children and young people are learning, playing and socialising using online resources. Parents are often 'left behind' as technology advances and consoles, mobile phones, tablets and computers are upgraded. New Apps, software, online games and social media platforms are introduced frequently and it is difficult for parents to ensure they are fully protecting their vulnerable young person from potential hazards and negative experiences online.

With technology devices being top of the list for things to buy children and young people for Christmas, SNAP has gathered some information sources and websites that offer tips and guidance to help navigate this tricky topic.

www.saferinternet.org.uk - This website has a section for parents and carers giving e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the Internet.

www.childnet.com - The parents section on this website gives all the information you need to keep your child safe online. If you're puzzled by parental controls or would like to know more about gaming, this section can help. There are useful tips to keep up to speed with what young people are doing online and ways to keep your child safe.

www.internetmatters.org - Advice and simple things you can do to make sure your children are using the Internet safely, from pre-school to teens.

www.connectsafely.org/safety-tips-advice/ - Tips and advice on all aspects of online activity, with parent guides on topics such as cyberbullying, Snapchat, mobile phones, cyber security and Virtual World Safety Tips for Parents of Teens.

Learning disabilities, autism and internet safety: A parent's guide - The charity Cerebra has produced a useful guide on all aspects of Internet safety for parents of children and young people with learning disabilities and autism. There is also a sheet called Play IT Safe, with tips when using the Internet on computer and mobile phone.
http://w3.cerebra.org.uk/help-and-information/ guides-for-parents/learning-disabilities-autism-and-internet-safety-a-parents-guide/

If you would a link to our full SNAP internet and social media safety sheet let us know.

SNAP TOP TIP
If friends and relatives are struggling with gift ideas for your children, why not suggest an itunes voucher so they can purchase any apps they may like.