



Digital Picks

From your Elementary Library Media Specialists

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Selected by the Elementary Library Media Specialists for the families of Grosse Pointe Public Schools. Please enjoy this month's educational, informational, and educational websites and apps - "digital picks". We hope you find our reviews helpful and we welcome your suggestions for future picks:



Duckie Deck Trash Toys - Ages 3+ iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad - \$2.99

Duckie Deck Trash Toys is a virtual creation tool made for preschoolers. Kids choose from a variety of recycled and found items and make creatures. Kids aren't limited by how many items they can add to their creature. No ads, parent settings, or instructions distract or limit kids. With Earth Day just passing, this app is a great way to show students how to be creative using reusable items. It's a wonderful tie-in for Earth Day and Spring.



codeSpark Academy - Ages 5+ iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Chromebook, Kindle, Windows Phone - Free (but upgrade is available for a charge)

<https://codespark.com/> codeSpark Academy includes several increasingly challenging drag-and-drop coding puzzles that introduce kids to the logic of programming using visual blocks of code. No instructions are available in-app, but parents can access a full curriculum explaining the concepts on the [codeSpark website](https://codespark.com/) linked in the parent section. Keep in mind that the app is available by slightly different names for Android and iOS devices.



Thinkrolls 2 App - iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire - Ages 5+ - \$2.99

Thinkrolls 2 follows the same smart, fun format as *Thinkrolls*, adding new science concepts such as density, force, and electricity. Two settings -- easy and hard -- keep challenges appropriate for preschoolers and up, and parents can create accounts for up to six users, customizing the challenge level for each. The challenges require thinking and planning ahead, but kids can try without penalty until they figure it out. Every completed level leads to a fun new ball character to play with.

Elementary Library Media Specialists

- **Danielle Gostomski:** Kerby, Mason, Poupard, Richard
- **Amy Hermon:** Kerby, Maire, Poupard, Richard
- **Sherry Martin:** Defer, Ferry, Mason, Monteith, Poupard
- **Cheryl Quinlan:** Defer, Kerby, Maire, Mason, Monteith
- **Rachel Walpole:** Defer, Richard, Trombly

