**IPADS**

**We are considering purchasing some ipads and apps for use in the children's department. Do any of you already have ipads for children's use in the library? Are they mounted on a desktop or do they circulate in-house? We are not considering circulating these outside the library at this time. Any advice you could give us, based on your experience, would be much appreciated.**

We have two iPads we circulate in our children's room. Kids must sit on the couch when using them. If they are younger than five, an adult must sit with them. We have apps organized in folders by grade level.

The ipads are very popular and we have not had problems with them.

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*Susan Conklin*

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Brenda, I'll let our librarians reply (and take credit) for this, they advocated strongly. Farmington/Farmington Hills. I am the tech writing from my alumni account (where I dump my subscriptions). We have only two (friends funding) trying to get more. They are very popular. Things we've done well. 1. Paid extra for Ghost Armor (available at Twelve Oaks mall near apple store). This is a thick cover that they kind of melt on (can be removed if needed). Makes us totally not worry about those little hands. 2. Used the Armor Active ball jointed display mount, they can turn things around, get right on it, but not walk away with it. This cost almost as much as the blessed Ipad ($300 ish) but totally worth it. Ours we use suction cups rather than screw into the nice furnature, then a computer cable lock to put the whole unit to the furnature. YMMV, you want something. 3. We techs locked it down with a user and admin password. Youth can log patrons in, but they keep their usage stats based on this (we hope to justify more purchases). 4. We did NOT tie a credit card to this unit (we bought it with that, but did not keep it for software purchases). We techs let the librarians admininster the thing and buy apps, have to be admin, we put an iTunes card ($25) on each iPad. So they can buy stuff but not mess up the libraries credit card!! Also, if you have an "app collection development" policy, you can watch library journals for app recommendation, maybe build a wish list. I myself am not good on that part, but I know if someone watches the apple page, they offer really good aps for free every week, just have to watch and wait. Stuff we would do different next time. 1. Not buy apple cases. We paid for these $30 cases which are never used since we've locked them in the Armor Active containers. This was OK since the librarians played around with them for a few months, etc. But could've skipped that expense. 2. Training. We don't have a real way to make the librarians "play" with these. So there are information silos, some people take full responsiblity for making sure these are synched, etc others don't touch them. It is not that hard, but I'm picking my battles. 3. You should have more than one workstation at the desk or office with iTunes on it. So they can synch back up. We have patrons who try different passwords and if they do this 10+ times in a small space (they are near the desk, so this doesn't happen offten) Apple will lock them up. We have to log back on while synching to our account. We haven't found a way around this (maybe someone else has). Meantime, make sure you can do it more than one place, so if the computer with iTunes on it breaks, you can still rescue an iPad without the techs, if needed, unless your techs are always available and you'd rather not think about anything (shrug). Remember tho thinking (and playing) is good for the mind.. and again, people LOVE these! Oh, last thought, decide what your age audience is for this and limit aps (and or access) accordingly. xox [Mary.Carleton@farmlib.org](mailto:Mary.Carleton@farmlib.org) Farmington Community Library [248-848-4302](callto:248-848-4302)

Hi Brenda,   
  
We have 3 16gb youth Ipad3s, one at each of our locations. We are adding 3 more 32gb youth, and a 4th for teens. They have been very popular and heavily used. They all share the same apps, under the IOS7, the apps are automatically updated. I've attached a cheat sheet for our setup and the brochure for the apps we have installed. They all share the same apple id so they share the same apps. We bought a $200 iTunes card to purchase apps, many were free, that bought all the apps in the brochure. We'll add a few, change a few every couple months. The teen Ipad will have a few of the youth apps and some of their own. They are locked down to tables with Kensington SafeGrip Security Case and Lock for iPad, available on Amazon. They use the public wireless, which is filtered. We periodically go in and delete photos the kids take of themselves or they take with various apps, mostly because it's using up storage...they are just goofy photos. :) I recommend getting 32gb. We are tight on space on the 16gbs. Other than that, we have had no problems thus far. Some of our youth staff are using them for storytimes. We hope to do more programming.   
  
Feel free to contact me with any further questions.   
  
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The Harrison District Library currently has two ipads in their Children's Area. They do not circulation. We have them in cases which are mounted on a table. The Pere Marquette District Library will be putting 2 in the Children's Area soon. They will also be locked in security devices mounted so they cannot be removed. In Harrison we have had the ipad cases compromised so they are not full proof.   
  
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