

Help for Getting an iPad For a Child or Student with Special Needs

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About Lillie's Pad and this Document

Lilliespad.com is one dad's way of collecting and sharing special needs-related advice and information about the iPad, iPhone and iPad Touch. The site covers apps, app giveaways, accessories, videos, music, news and journal articles, helpful tips and personal insights. Here's why:

My beautiful daughter Lillie has severe cerebral palsy (CP) and cortical visual impairment (CVI). For Lillie, the iPad has been an amazing gift. Her mom and I have watched it empower her in many ways that were previously unavailable to her. And I know there are lots of other folks who would love to see an iPad do that for their special someone(s). But the cost is a huge hurdle.

This document contains information to help you get over that hurdle. It's about raising funds, both from grants and on your own. If this helps, I hope you'll pass the information to others who can use it. And that you'll send me your ideas, information and success stories, so I can update this document and our site. Just send me an email or write a comment on our Facebook page. I'd love to be able to send a reply that you'll read on your child's new iPad!

:: Kevin Sitek

Come join the party:

Blog Site: www.lilliespad.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lillies-Pad/165711900130473>

Email: contact@lilliespad.com



Please Read Before Continuing (Because Apparently I Have To Say This)

DISCLAIMER: Neither Lillie's Pad nor Kevin Sitek is responsible for any information or claims made by the organizations highlighted in this document. Descriptions, information and copy for websites, blogs, facebook pages, companies and organizations were taken directly from their respective sites, blogs, facebook pages, etc. Trademarks, logos and copyrights belong to their rightful owners. All information listed for companies, blogs, websites etc. is directly taken from the source.

We have not personally verified most of this information. Please report any errors or updates to us. Thank you.

Get Started

I can't stress this enough: Do your research. Before you even think about raising money, you need to understand what you're raising it for. Familiarize yourself with the iPad. Learn about the different models, carrying cases and other accessories. Definitely take a look at some special-needs apps. Remember, acquiring the iPad is not mission accomplished. The apps and add-ons are equally necessary and (this will come as no surprise) can add significantly to the cost.

Here are some ballpark figures to help you know how much you're going to need:

The base model iPad (16GB Wi-Fi only) starts at \$499. That's a sizeable chunk of change already. By the time you add tax, shipping if applicable, a protective case, a carrying case and some decent apps, it can easily end up around \$800. In my experience, that's a safe estimate.

Financial Breakdown:

iPad base model (16GB Wi-Fi only): \$499

Sales Tax (varies by location), approximately: \$40

Protective case (if, in addition to children, there are liquids, hard surfaces and gravity where you live, you can't afford to skimp on this): \$40 - \$90

Carrying Pouch: \$20

Apps: \$200+

Total: \$800+

Don't let that amount discourage you. It may be that you won't have to pay taxes or shipping. Or that you'll find a great deal somewhere. But if you plan for that amount, you'll avoid sticker shock later on. And if you break \$800 into smaller chunks, it will seem a lot less intimidating. For example:

\$800 is:

- 80 Family, friends and co-workers donating \$10 a piece
- 40 Family, friends and co-workers donating \$20 a piece
- Skipping 200 venti lattes

A good place to start your research is "*How to Find the Latest Special Needs iPad & iPhone Apps & Accessories*," an article I wrote for iPhone Life Magazine. It will point you to lots of helpful sites, blogs and Facebook groups. You can [download the article for free](#). You can also find it at www.lilliespad.com/articles.

And speaking of Facebook groups: joining them is a great way to connect with other parents, teachers, therapists, etc., who understand your situation and will gladly answer your questions – so don't be shy about asking.

Get Creative

There are many, many generous people who will help you, but they can't if they don't know you need help. Here are some ways to get your story out there.

Facebook is Your Friend

This is a great story. A resourceful mom was trying to find a way to get her special needs child an iPad. She was living paycheck to paycheck, but earning just too much to qualify for a federal program that subsidizes iPad purchases. So, using a web tool called [FundRazr](#), she posted her child's story and photo on Facebook.

Within 48 hours she'd received enough donations to buy an iPad and some apps. Donations came in from all over the world – as far away as Australia! The best part? This mother went on to start [LoudMommy.com](#), which raises funds to buy iPads for other kids. That could be your child!

Video is Powerful

This is something I've seen many times: A television news story reports on an individual with special needs being helped by using an iPad in school or in therapy. But they couldn't afford to have one at home. Once the story airs, donations start coming in and within days the person in the new story has a new iPad.

You can make a video. It's not as hard as you may think. Borrow a digital camera if you have to and don't worry about making it look professional. It's about your story. Just tell it, simply and sincerely. How would having an iPad help your child? What would your child be able to do more easily? Explain how it would give your child a voice, a better education or greater access to the world. Remember, people who don't know a special needs kid don't know these things. Help them understand and they'll want to help.

The next step is to put your video on YouTube, Facebook or your blog. Don't have a blog? You can create one for free. Do a search on Google for free blogs. Or contact someone who has a blog – like me! – to write about it or post it. The important thing, like I said earlier, is to get your story out there. Keep going until you've reached your goal –and then help others to do the same.

PLEASE NOTE - Just be careful on how much personal information you disclose. Stay away from your address, your child's school, stuff like that etc.

Additional Creative Ideas

- Contact your local newspaper and radio and TV stations.
- Ask family and friends to give birthday and holiday gifts as iTunes and Apple gift cards, or good old-fashioned cash.
- Let them know they can donate miles, or redeem miles and/or rewards points for Apple and iTunes gift cards.
- Enroll in an automatic savings program with your bank. For example, Bank of America has a free one called "Keep the Change." Each purchase you make with your debit card is rounded up to the next dollar, and the difference is automatically added to your savings account. I've heard it adds up fast!
- Have your bank automatically deduct and save money from your paycheck. Even if it's only 5 or 10 dollars a week, it adds up.
- Save your change. Seriously. Whenever I have change in my pocket, I toss it into my "Cha-ching Cup." When my cup runneth over, I've gotten as much as \$40.
- Is there someone in your community known for donating money? Contact him/her.
- Contact local charitable and service organizations. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, Masons, Knights of Columbus, VFW, Volunteer Fire Department, Women's Auxiliary, fraternity, sorority, you-name-it. These groups are always looking for a good cause to support. I've read at least a dozen stories about local groups raising money to buy an iPad for a special needs individual. Just ask. If they say, "no," what should you do? Move on to the next one. Keep asking until someone says, "yes."
- Make a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation and upload it to Scribd.com.

So there you have it. It's not everything, But it's a start. And it's not as hard as you might think. Remember, people want to help, but you need to make them aware of your child's need. Tell everyone you know what you're doing – help can come from anywhere. I believe we attract what we think about. The more people who know about your cause, the sooner your child has an iPad and all the things it can do!

Remember, people want to help, but you need to make them aware of your child's need.

Grants

Loud Mommy

<http://loudmommy.com/apply/>

Description:

Our goal is to provide iPad's for families in need. Finances and child's condition are the deciding factors for Loud Mommy. Applicants will be reviewed by a committee. Supplies will be limited to donations received. We want to hear from you! But its very important that you print out the application and mail it to us along with the required information otherwise your application is not complete. The more information you provide: THE BETTER!

Eligibility Requirements:

- Finances and child's condition are the deciding factors

Application Directions:

Very important that you [print out the application](#) and mail it to us along with the required information otherwise your application is not complete.

Address:

LoudMommy
P.O. Box 114
Sparland, IL 61565

Contact:

For more information email loudmommy@gmail.com

Apps For Children With Special Needs

<http://a4cwsn.com/ipad2-4u/>

iPads 4U Description:

Apps for Children with Special Needs would like to provide iPads to as many families dealing with Special Needs as we possibly can. We will be starting a campaign to raise money as well as contributing money from the site in order to do this.

All you have to do to be eligible is register with [A4cwsn](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and / or [Facebook](#) then send us a letter detailing why your family needs an iPad and how it will help you. There will be a list compiled and the ones we feel could benefit most will be moved to the top. The more information you give us, the more we can determine your situation, photos, videos, school reports, what ever you feel comfortable telling us. Simple and easy to do. To get started register with us on the [HOME page](#) 3/4 down left side and watch this page for details on the list.

This campaign is now underway please fill in our [online form](#) and follow the instructions.

Eligibility Requirements & Application Directions:

- Please fill in our [form](#) with as much detail as you feel comfortable divulging. Please be sure to explain why and how an iPad will help you and your family.
- We will not sort these in order of most severe case, but rather in order of the situation and information submitted.
- All information will be kept strictly Confidential. If you are to be the next recipient of an iPad a brief outline of your story will be displayed under your name for people to view.

Contact:

For more information email Gary James at <http://a4cwsn.com>



Babies With iPads

<http://babieswithipads.blogspot.com/p/babies-with-ipads-grant-application.html>

Grant Description:

Babies with iPads will be granting 16GB iPads to deserving children as often as funds allow. I will personally screen all applications to determine if eligibility requirements are met, then a team consisting of at least a parent, ST, and OT will review the applications without identifying information and choose the top 3 deserving children. Of the top 3 children one will be randomly chosen and mailed a refurbished or new iPad.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Reside in West Virginia
- Child under the age of 60 months
- Child must have multiple medical and/or developmental issues that impact the ability to play and/or communicate
- Access to a computer with an iTunes account
- Currently cannot afford to purchase an iPad (no income verification required)
- Ability to provide pictures, videos and/or updates to Babies with iPad to use as needed.

Application Directions:

Please print out the application ([click here for application link](#)) or copy/paste and mail to:

Babies with iPads
c/o Bridget Bailey
484 Silver Street
Poca, WV 25159

Contact:

For more information email Bridget Bailey at Bab006@aol.com

Babies with iPads

The Conover Company Mobile Technology Grant

<http://www.conovercompany.com/grants/>

Grant Description:

The purpose of the Conover Mobile Technology Grant is to promote the use of mobile technology and our apps to improve an individual's freedom and independence.

Eligibility Requirements:

Individuals, parents, caretakers, teachers, counselors, religious leaders, private organizations and public organizations are all eligible to apply for this grant. The grants are currently targeted to the use of iPod and iPad devices to assist individuals in improving their ability to function independently in their homes, schools, workplaces and communities. Successful grantees will receive either an iPod or an iPad preloaded with all Conover Company Functional Skills System videos to assist individuals in developing freedom and independence.

Application Directions:

The applicant must complete the application. The Conover Company will have sole discretion to accept or reject any application based upon information provided through the grant application. All decisions to decline a grant are final and may not be appealed.

[Click here to fill out the online application](#)

Contact:

For more information email @ sales@conovercompany.com



Danny's Wish

<http://www.letschatautism.com/ipads-for-autism-application/>

Grant Description:

Danny's Wish is committed to providing life enhancing resources and experiences for children and families dealing with autism and autism spectrum disorders. Our goal for this campaign is to raise \$50,000 to supply approximately 100 iPads to those children affected and in need the most. We will be considering every request.

iPads For Autism Eligibility Requirements:

- Individual you are applying for must have a diagnosis on the autism spectrum (IEP, school evaluation or supporting documents)
- Reside in the United States of America
- Be minimally verbal or non-verbal
- Be in financial need. Gross income not to exceed \$100K
- Have access to a computer and an iTunes account
- No age limit to qualify
- You must attach some form of documentation that confirms your child's diagnosis, verbal abilities (i.e. diagnosis report, speech report, school evaluation, etc) and financial need. If you have multiple children with autism, you must attach each child's paperwork if requesting more than one iPad.

Application Directions:

Please completely review the following information before filling out either the online or print application. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received.

View and complete [online application here](#)

Please [download application](#), print out and mail to:

Danny's Wish Foundation
Attn: iPads For Autism
800 Shames Drive
Westbury, NY 11590

Contact:

For more information email ipads@dannyswish.org



iHelp for Special Needs

http://www.ihelpforspecialneeds.com/iHelpWelcome/Need_An_iPad_App.html

Grant Description:

If your family, school or someone you know could greatly benefit from receiving an iPad and/or Apps, and you are interested in helping to raise the funds to purchase the assistive technology you need, please send us an email to info@ihelpforspecialneeds.com

Eligibility Requirements:

Please include as much of the following information as you feel comfortable. Only your contact information and what kind of assistive technology you would like is required.

Application Directions:

[Click here for online application](#)

Copy and paste application questions along with your answers and email to info@ihelpforspecialneeds.com

Contact:

For more information email at info@ihelpforspecialneeds.com



Difference Iz Good

[http://link\(make sure to replace hyperlink\)](http://link(make sure to replace hyperlink))

Grant Description:

Do you or a family member have a communication disability? Through our Gift a Voice Project we gift to those in need an iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad with an AAC app installed.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The individual you are applying for must reside in the United States of America.
- They must be speech impaired, minimally verbal or non-verbal as identified in a speech pathology report.
- They must be in financial need. Please only apply for assistance if there is a true financial need.
- There is no age limit.
- You must agree to donate the device (and accessories) back to the Foundation if it does not help the individual communicate.

Application Directions:

Please read the Eligibility Requirements before completing the application. You will find them on the main Gift a Voice page. A response is required for every section. In addition, we require a speech pathologist report indicating the recipient is speech impaired, minimally verbal or non-verbal. This can be emailed to voice@differentizgood.org or mailed to **Turning Views Foundation, Gift a Voice Project, PO Box 19812, Reno, NV 89511.**

Contact:

For more information email voice@differentizgood.org

Different Iz Good™
Making a Difference for Those With Differences

Fundraising

FundRazr

<http://fundrazr.com/>

Description:

FundRazr is the social media fundraising application anyone can use. FundRazr spreads through your social network to help you raise money for causes that you and your friends care about. Get FundRazr. Set up your campaign. Share it with your friends. Collect payments.

Eligibility Requirements:

Open to everyone.

Directions:

Get and install the FREE FundRazr Facebook app. It's free. Set up FundRazr for your individual or group iPad cause/campaign. Add FundRazr to your Facebook profile or Fan page. Invite friends to donate via Facebook email or Twitter. Every FundRazr is free to set up. Supporters pay only the amount they choose to give. Recipients pay a fee of 4.9% + \$0.30 USD* on every payment. The fee includes all PayPal transaction fees.

Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://fundrazr.com/faq>

Contact:

Email us at support@fundrazr.com



The Puzzling Piece iPad Challenge

<http://thepuzzlingpiece.com/ipad.html>

Description:

Everyone can receive a free iPad. Our challenge to you isif you sell 60 Puzzling Piece necklaces, key chains or combination of both. We will give you a brand new iPad for your child or for your students. We want to offer this opportunity to everyone that we can help. Once we receive the required information we will send you the photos of the necklace and key chain. They each sell for \$20 each. If you ask your family and friends to help you sell, you can send them the photos. You don't need to lay out any money. When you are ready we will ship the product right to your home.

Eligibility Requirements:

We want to offer this opportunity to everyone that we can help.

Application Directions:

To get started, we would like the following information:

1. Full name
2. Email address
3. Phone number
4. Address
5. The name and age of your child, or students that are going to receive the iPad

Contact:

For more information email Melissa Winter at info@thepuzzlingpiece.com or call 201-602-0547.



GiveForward

<http://www.giveforward.com/>

Description

GiveForward is a website that provides personalized fundraising webpages to raise money for loved ones during times of need. Beyond just an online tool, GiveForward is a fundraising support system. From simple tips about getting started to one-on-one coaching, GiveForward's team works with all of our fundraisers to help them meet and surpass their goals.

Eligibility Requirements:

Open to everyone.

Directions:

Step One: Create Your GiveForward Page.

Write a description of your fundraising efforts and upload photos that tell your story. You can also embed videos, post events and add links to outside sites.

Step Two: Spread the Love.

Promote your pages via email and Facebook. Friends and family can donate to your GiveForward page using a credit or debit card.

Step Three: Receive Funds.

Once your fundraiser reaches its end date, GiveForward sends a check (minus a small processing fee of 7%) to the beneficiary for the amount raised. Do a happy dance knowing you just did something extraordinary for someone you care about.

Step Four: Repay the Good.

Once your fundraiser is complete, pay it forward by telling another family going through a tough medical situation about GiveForward. They'll be grateful that you did!

Contact:

For more information visit <http://www.giveforward.com/contact/form/contact>



Special Thanks

Here are some great people and links that were very informative and helpful in putting this document together.

Edited By: Sandy Dietrick

Sandy is a very dear friend of mine and my copywriting partner. She graciously volunteered her time to make sure my copy was on the straight and narrow. Without her help, this document never would of been published. Well, it would have. It just would of been a garbled mess on grammatical errors and misspellings. So, thanks Sands!

ATMac.org - Empowering Disabled Apple Users

<http://atmac.org/getting-ipad-iphone-itouch-for-communication>

SQUIDALICIOUS - The Adventures of Leelo and His Potty-Mouthed Mom

<http://www.squidalicious.com/2010/11/how-to-get-your-kid-with-autism-that.html>

The Friendship Circle Blog

<http://blog.friendshipcircle.org/2011/03/23/on-a-tight-budget-7-ways-to-get-an-ipad-for-your-child-with-special-needs/>