

iPads in Kindergarten

Choosing the right model

You've made the decision to add iPads to your kindergarten class, but you just don't know where to begin. With so many options, the choice can be overwhelming. Here are some considerations to help you decide what works best for your classroom.



Currently, there are a number of models available from the Apple store: iPad minis, iPad Airs, iPad Pros; iPads with and without data; and storage space from 16 to 64 GB.

The first thing to consider is how you intend to use the iPads once you have them. Will you be mostly taking pictures or videos? Surfing the web? Are there particular apps that you want or that your school board requires? These answers will help you choose the best model for you.

Tip: iPad Pros offer a lot of extra features – at a cost! Before choosing this model, think carefully about how much you really need it for your young students. In most cases, iPad Airs and Minis will do the job for a considerably lower price!

Considering your budget



It's also worth thinking about your budget, both in the short-term and in the long-term. You can get older models for cheaper, but they may not be supported by the Apple store with the latest iOS and app updates. This means that you could be replacing your iPads much sooner than expected. Also, unofficial online retailers may not always deliver exactly what they promised. Generally, it's best to order from a trusted source.

In our research project, we used iPad Airs and iPad Air 2s with 16 GB of storage.

These models were great for running the open-ended app 30hands. However, in our school board location we found that the iPads often ran out of storage space because there were so many other required apps. You'll need to back-up your iPads no matter what storage size you get, but you're going to be backing them up a lot more often with the 16 GB models. Depending on how much you need to keep on each iPad, it may be worth it for you to spend a bit more to get 32 GB or higher.

Another thing to consider is whether or not to get a model with data. We recommend sticking to wifi-only models because they're cheaper initially and over time. You will never have to worry about data plans, or accidental overuse charges from the children.

How many iPads do you need?

An essential part of figuring out how much you should spend on each iPad is just considering how many you'll need in each class. In our project, we found that 3 iPads per class of 27 children worked, but having a couple more would have been ideal. You know best how well your students share and take turns. If they manage well in similar situations sharing interesting toys in small groups, they'll probably be fine sharing fewer iPads.

Tip: If several classrooms at your school decide to start using iPads, you can take advantage of education pricing and bulk purchase discounts. Visit the Apple online store for more information. <http://www.apple.com/ca/education/pricelists/>

Where to shop

As we mentioned already, choosing your retailer carefully is key to ensuring you get the best – and safest – value for your purchase.

- The Apple store sells new models individually. This option gives you the most customization.
- Apple also sells certified refurbished models that come with a one-year warranty. This is a good option for buying fewer iPads at a lower cost.
- Apple offers educational pricing and bulk discounts. This option is best if you need to buy several of the same new models.
- Apple certified retailers are also a safe bet. These stores will clearly display their certified retailer status so it will be easy to tell whether or not the sale is legitimate.



For more information

We hope that you've found this introductory guide to choosing iPads for your kindergarten class to be helpful. If you would like more information, feel free to contact the research team. You can also talk to an Apple representative to get more information about model specifications.

