TOP PICKS | 18 TOOLS

Best Apps and Sites for Improving Executive Function

Thinking Time Pro - Cognitive Skills for Early Learning

Challenging games stress memory, logic, impulse control, flexibility

Bottom line: Effective and engaging way to address foundational cognitive skills; most kids will need adult support.

Grades: Pre-K–K   Price: $4.99

Choiceworks

Practical, flexible life-skills diagrams build executive functions

Bottom line: A variety of customizability options make it easy to personalize boards.

Grades: Pre-K–2   Price: $6.99

Todo Telling Time

Top-notch tool for teaching time, from minutes to months

Bottom line: Well-rounded, fun learning game that's ALL about time.

Grades: Pre-K–2   Price: $4.99

Children with Autism: A Visual Schedule

Simple, wearable calendar and task tool could be great for some

Bottom line: This is a usefully customizable spin on visual timers, but the cool wearable version is accessible to very few students.

Grades: Pre-K–12   Price: $12.99

First Then Visual Schedule HD

Useful multisensory tool teaches self-direction and follow-through

Bottom line: This simple but powerful tool engages kids in independently following a schedule.

Grades: Pre-K–12
Price: Paid   ⓘ

Goalbook Toolkit

Set tailored targets with pricey but worth-it kit of tools, strategies

Bottom line: You pay for quality with Goalbook Toolkit, including access to clear, well-crafted learning goals and strategies that allow for far easier differentiation.

Grades: Pre-K–12
Price: Free to try, Paid   ⓘ

Mindful Powers

Care for a cute creature to practice mindfulness and self-control

Bottom line: Meditation lessons and visual timers act as decent supplemental activities for introducing SEL skills.

Grades: K–5
Price: Free to try, Paid   ⓘ

Remind

Teachers' text reminders keep students -- and parents -- up to speed

Bottom line: Well-designed, highly effective messaging tool has the potential to keep students and families connected with their schools.

Grades: Pre-K–12
Price: Free, Paid   ⓘ

Time Timer

Manage and conceptualize time with great visuals, a few bugs

Bottom line: A decent option for visual timer needs, being sufficiently customizable, but there are still a few bugs and room for improvement.

Grades: 1–12
Price: Paid   ⓘ

Lucidchart

Intuitive editor helps users create and share dynamic visual diagrams

Bottom line: Students and teachers can use this tool alone or collaboratively to build and share stunning, effective visuals that stretch thinking.

Grades: 4–12
Price: Free, Paid   ⓘ

MindMeister

Powerful mind mapper aimed at adults, simple enough for older kids

Bottom line: Sophisticated productivity tool enhances learning and organization with simple dashboard and slick workspace.

Grades: 5–12
Price: Free, Paid

WorkFlowy

Simple tool helps teachers and students make lists, get organized

Bottom line: A simple, free way to get organized combining lists, outlines, and notes with some extra nice-to-have features that make this tool a solid option for teachers and students.

Grades: 5–12   Price: Free

Bear

Write, edit, and sync content on the go with flexible note-taking tool

Bottom line: For an app that doesn't have a lot of bells and whistles, it's surprisingly versatile and useful for many types of writing and note-taking.

Grades: 6–12
Price: Free, Paid

Evernote

Organize digital content with full-featured web clipper and notebook

Bottom line: Students and teachers can learn to better manage their digital lives via this comprehensive organizational tool.

Grades: 6–12
Price: Free, Free to try, Paid

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iHomework 2

Keep track of assignments, due dates, and tasks with digital planner

Bottom line: This flexible, easy-to-learn organizational tool will help students get set up for success, though teachers will need to follow up regularly to make sure the information is accurate.

Grades: 6–12
Price: Free, Paid

Notability

Flexible note-taking tool empowers learners of all abilities

Bottom line: An excellent tool that lets students make their notes thorough and useful in the way that best suits their learning styles and abilities.

Grades: 6–12   Price: $9.99

Microsoft OneNote

Note-taking giant built for flexible, collaborative work

Bottom line: A powerful (and free) tool for thinking and organization that's making smart strides in the education space.

Grades: 6–12   Price: Free

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myHomework Student Planner

Digital planner makes scheduling easy, if paired with teacher app

Bottom line: If used on a regular basis with teacher guidance and motivation, students can be ready to tackle their complex schedules with ease.

Grades: 7–12   Price: Free