


Academia SEND Provision

Green Screen

Name of App	Green Screen
Icon	
Developer	DoInk
Website	www.doink.com
Twitter	https://twitter.com/touchautism
Cost	Paid and available via VPP
Category	Education
Key Words	SEND, Autism, special needs, green screen
Overview (from iTunes)	<p>“With Green Screen by Do Ink, you can tell a story, explain an idea, and express yourself in truly creative and unique ways.</p> <p>You know what a "green screen" effect is, right? It's used in the movies to make it look like the actors have landed on an alien planet, and it's used on TV to make it look like your local news announcer is standing in front of a weather map.”</p>

Review

Way back in the mists of time, green screening was reserved for elite people in studios with expensive equipment; high end cameras, microphones, lighting and of course, a green - or more accurately a “chromakey” screen. Actors would stand in front of a green or sometimes blue screen and act out scenes which were then imported into expensive software and a scene added to replace the green background. As noted above, it has been used for weather reports and in acting.

How does it work? Mid green or mid blue is often used as a background canvas. When the footage filmed is imported into special software, the colour is seen as “transparent” and the background is replaced. Why green? Quite simply because there is no green pigment in your skin.

Nowadays, the decimal point in the price tag has moved significantly- and in our favour. Dolnk is the number one green screening app on the app store with good reason. It is really simple to get really powerful results with minimal financial outlay.

You need a copy of the app; you need actors; you need a green screen; you need a background image or video. Anything can be a green screen; the material is irrelevant. In some schools they have a painted wall; some use green bedsheets or cloth; leaf green backing paper for display works superbly. Just make sure that the background green is as smooth and evenly lit as possible.

The app can be used in two ways. The background image or background video can be imported and the actor presents in front of the green screen “live”. The advantage here is that the person filming actually sees the actor and the background together instantly. This is ideal for younger children or newer users. The video is then exported and the actor and the background merges into one file.

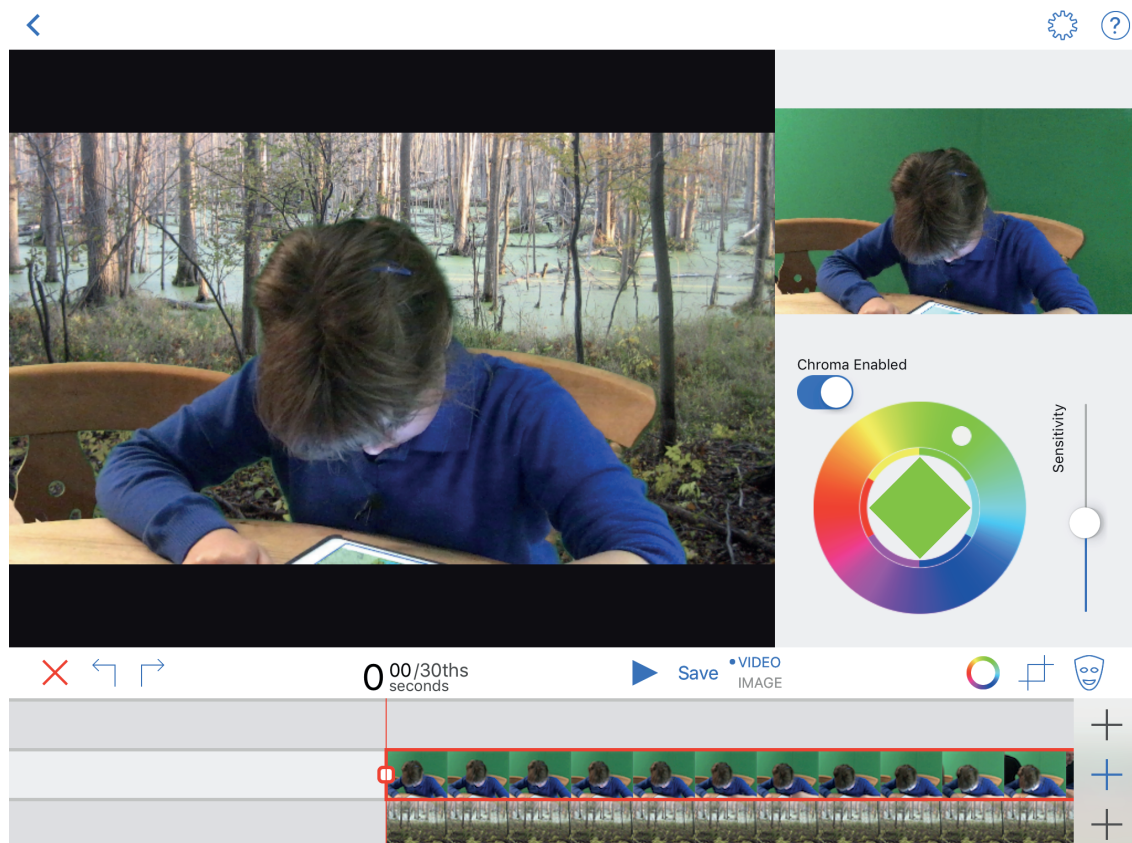
The second way is that actors are filmed simply using the camera app on the iPad against the green screen. This green video can then be imported into Dolnk’s Green Screen app afterwards with a background and the final video is then exported in the normal way to the Camera Roll. The advantage of this approach is that the green video can be used with many different backgrounds without affecting the original green video.

For pupils with special needs they may prefer to go for the first option as they want to see the magic happening. This can be made even more powerful if you stream the iPad to Apple TV in class while filming.



Features

The app is very intuitive and has a clean layout. There is a timeline at the bottom of the screen and a large preview window. There is a very easy to follow help video project which will get you up and running in no time.



The app works really well “out of the box”. However there are also advanced features including adjusting the level of chroma if you still see traces of green; you can crop background images and photos; you can re-size actors and move them round the video window. There are also masks for even more advanced opportunities. Note that you can use the app to take images of pupils, not just video clips. This is ideal for posters and displays.


The potential for pupils with additional, special or complex needs is enormous. Pupils are able to be “taken” to places that might otherwise be impossible. Pupils can re-visit places and experiences to support recall of information- transforming events such as a trip to the shops, or a school visit to the zoo from being reliant on memory recall, pupils can be surrounded by a visual reminder of the event. Pupils can be superimposed into familiar stories which can help to develop a sense of empathy with characters and surroundings. Not to mention that it is also genuinely exciting to do!

Review

Creative teachers will be able to exploit many opportunities to bring learning to life with Green Screen. As with so many apps, it works really well on its own; its greater power is being used in other apps, such as iMovie where a professional title and music can be added; or inserted into Book Creator and the book shared online.

Green screen apps can be perceived as being more “technical”; however using Doink’s Green Screen app is so easy- low learning threshold and high impact. For example, I worked with a group of pupils at a special school and one of the pupils who had cerebral palsy was a fan of a certain Premier Division football club, although she had never been to a game. Within a minute we had green cloth behind her; she was “there” in the stadium with one of the football players, and the enormity of her smile came second only to the humble tears of joy we shed at her visible delight.

If you have found a useful app why not tell Academia Edu about it?

 Contact Paul Hutton to discuss how we can help you integrate Apple technology into your SEND lessons.

Paul Hutton



paul.hutton@academia.co.uk