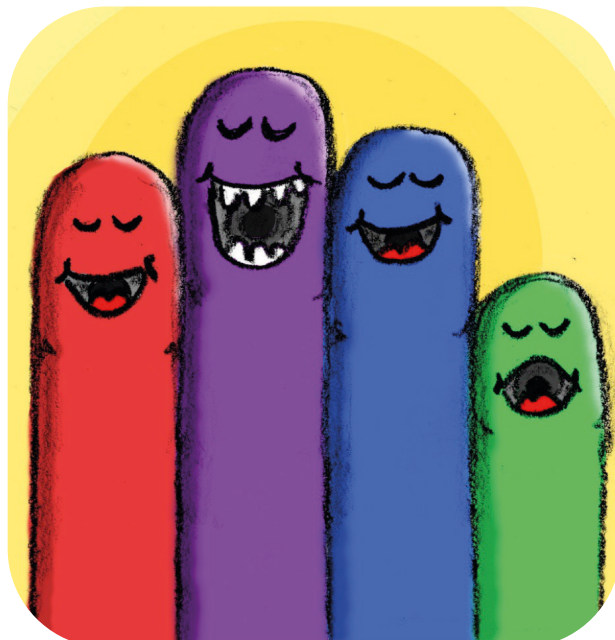


# Singing Fingers HD

Easy read app suggestion guide



Created as part of *The Bridge Project*.  
A collaboration between **This New Ground**  
and **Lifesize**.

**This  
New  
Ground**

**Lifesize**



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

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## A note from us...

Our easy read app suggestion guides have been compiled by This New Ground and Lifesize to share our experiences of facilitating music sessions. They are designed to give suggestions to creative individuals and facilitators in the community arts sector / care sector. Please note, this is not an official guide to using Singing Fingers.

For more information about the app, please see the developer's website: <http://singingfingers.com>.

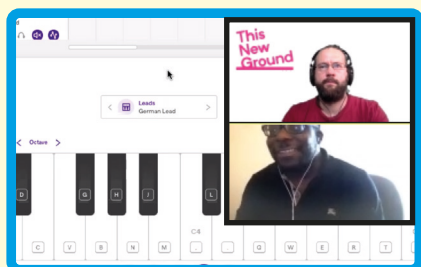
# Apps to make music with



We are This New Ground Collective, a group of creative people with learning disabilities. We usually meet together in Hammersmith each week to make music and sing.



Because of coronavirus we've been meeting weekly online.



In our online sessions, we have been using apps on tablets and phones to help us make music.



Here are our easy read suggestion guides to help you use the apps too.

**P.S. We'd love to see and hear any work you make!**  
**@thisnewgrounduk**  
**#TNGCreate2020**

# How to get Singing Fingers

To use Singing Fingers, you will need to download the app to your phone or tablet.



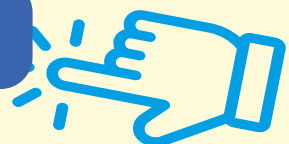
You can download it on iPhone, iPad, and any Android device.



Go to the app store on your phone or tablet.



Type: **Singing Fingers HD** in the search box then tap search.

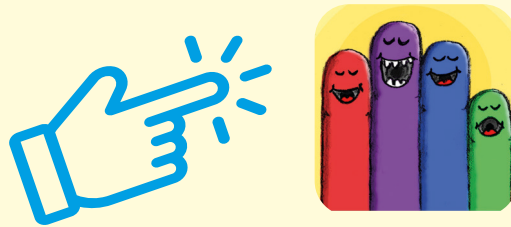


**You will need to buy Singing Fingers from the app store. It will cost about £0.99**

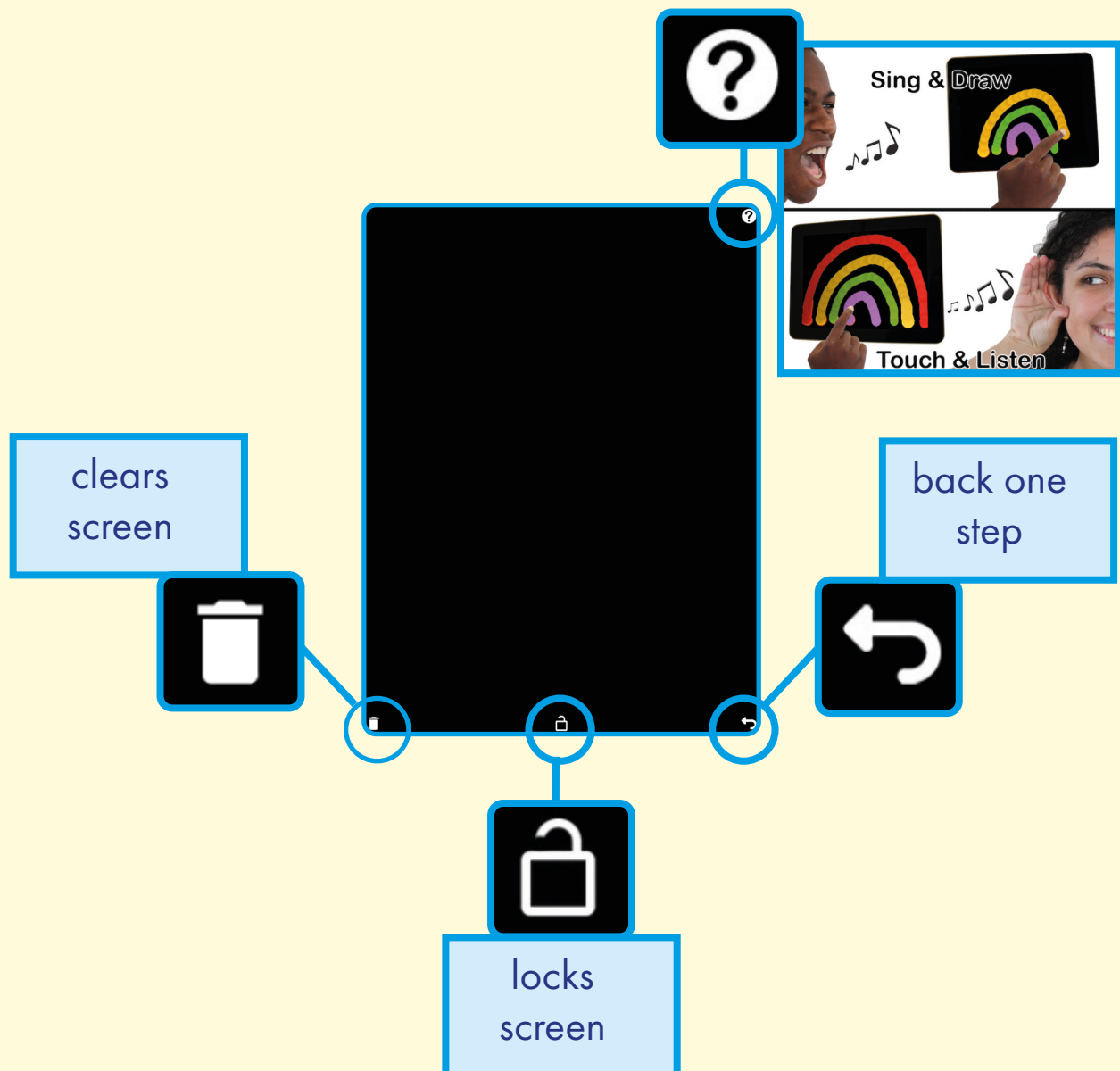
*If you are unsure about buying online, make sure you ask someone who supports you to help.*

# How we use Singing Fingers

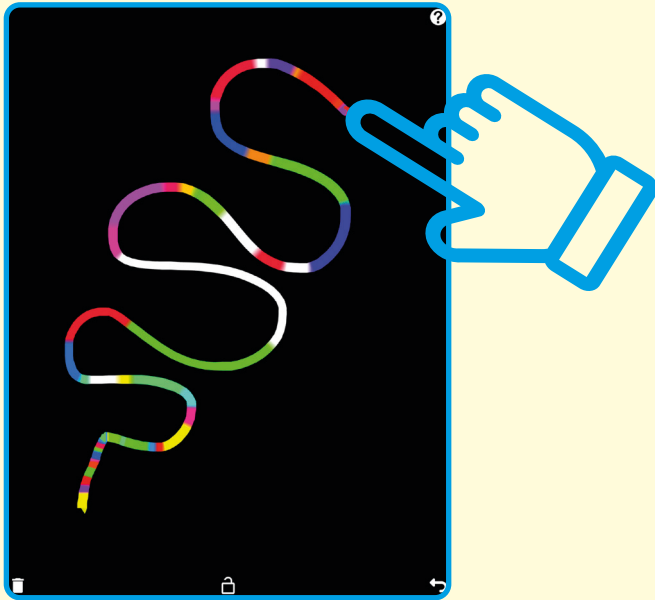
1) Tap on Singing Fingers app to open.



2) The screen will look like this.



3) Start by drawing a line with your finger on the screen. Make a sound at the same time - you could sing or say a word.



4) Now press where you have drawn and slide your finger to listen to your sound! Move your finger back to hear the sound backwards!



## Other good things to know

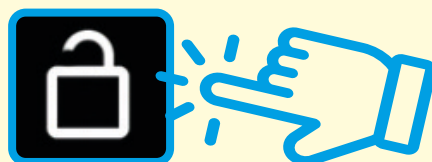
You can add more sounds by drawing more shapes. To remove a shape you have just drawn, tap the back button.



To clear the screen, press the bin button.



To lock the screen, so you can't make any more shapes, press the lock button. You can still hear any shapes you have drawn by pressing on them.



If you leave the app, the screen will clear. It will be blank the next time you open it, ready for some more shapes and sounds!

## Catherine and Katrina's review

TNG Member Catherine lives with family member Katrina, who supports Catherine to take part in activities. Catherine and Katrina tried out the Singing Fingers app at home.

Katrina said:

"This app worked well when we used it together. When Catherine used it on her own, she found it frustrating as it didn't do what she wanted. When we sat together and used it, and we made the noises and drew on the screen together, Catherine liked and interacted with it.

We would recommend this app be used as a group activity, or with a support worker or family member."

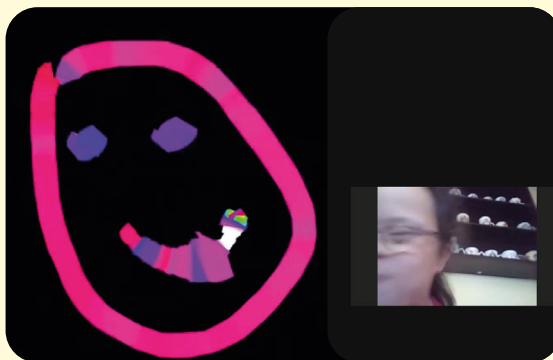
In an online session with Music Facilitator Sam, Catherine and Katrina explored how they could use the app together.

Sam began by sharing his iPad screen. He asked Catherine to suggest a noise for the outline of a face. They then repeated this for each part of the face - ears , eyes, nose. Catherine and Katrina worked together to choose funny noises for each part. Hearing the noises made Catherine laugh and she liked seeing her favourite colour on screen. Sam then played each of the parts back on the musical face.

Catherine said:

"It's good, I liked it."





## **Suggestions for group activities using Singing Fingers**

### **1) Musical faces**

Ask participants to choose a sound for each part of the face, then draw the face making the sound together. This can be played back, and further sounds or images be added to form a story.

### **2) Create a musical scene**

Choose a scene e.g. a beach. Together, draw the scene, making the corresponding noises. You could ask:

“What do waves sound like?”

“What else might we find at the beach?”

“What sound would you like it to make?”

You can then build the sounds and images to create a visual soundscape to play back.

### **3) Tell a story**

Create a short story together, inspired by a picture or object. Then, use the app to record your story, creating shapes to accompany your words. You could say your story in one go, making a continuous shape, or you could tell your story in segments and make corresponding shapes. You can then listen back to your story, following the shapes. [Timeslips.org](https://www.timeslips.org) has some great resources for using storytelling in sessions.

(NB If the session is online, the facilitator can share their tablet or phone screen)

## Facilitator's notes: Singing Fingers

Fun and easy to use, this app combines drawing and sound recording. To operate the app the user draws on the device screen whilst simultaneously recording sound through the inbuilt microphone. The result is a 'sound drawing' in vivid colours, which becomes an instrument. By touching the drawing, sounds can be replayed in different ways, including in reverse, which gives users a large range of compelling sound manipulation options. This app presents an enjoyable, organic workspace for harnessing the potential of combining imagery and sound creation.

### **What's great:**

It provides simple, exciting and intuitive creative opportunities for people with learning disabilities, enabling sound creation that is fun, visual and tactile. While it can be used for light entertainment and enjoyment, it is also a tool for creating sounds which can be mixed, or used in composition.

### **What could be improved:**

A save function would enable ideas to be revisited and would be really useful when using the app in compositions.

Sam Dook, Music Facilitator



# Making music with tablets, smartphones and iPads

Many apps have been developed which utilise the interactive screen technology of these devices, enabling a variety of ways of creating music. Users can easily operate hand-held devices as 'instruments' with gestures such as touching the screen, tilting or shaking. In some apps inbuilt parts of the device such as the camera and microphone can be used to modulate sound.

## Exciting possibilities

There are many ways of creating sound by using apps on hand-held devices, including physically connecting MIDI controllers such as keyboards or percussion triggering pads. With Bluetooth local networks, multiple devices can be tethered together wirelessly and connected to the same speaker.

For people with learning disabilities, people who experience challenges with fine motor skills, vision impairment and neurological challenges, these devices and appropriate apps can become accessible music-making instruments that open up new possibilities.

We have been trialling a number of apps in our session work that unlock the potential of aspiring musicians with limited understanding of music theory. The apps also enhance the creative potential of groups of musicians of differing abilities, enabling them to play together in harmony through the use of a set musical key.

## Benefits for our artists

- Accessible for users with learning disabilities or for people who experience challenges with fine motor skills.
- Increases options for groups of mixed ability and knowledge.
- Unlocks potential for those without traditional music training.
- Expands opportunities to express creativity.

## Useful Jargon

**MIDI controller:** Any software or hardware - including keyboards and drum pads – which can send MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) data to enabled devices for making electronic music.

**Bluetooth:** A radio communication technology that enables low-power, short distance wireless networking between phones, computers, and other network devices.

**Pitch:** The quality that makes it possible to judge sounds as "higher" and "lower".

**Harmony:** A pleasant musical sound made by different notes being played at the same time.

**Chord:** A set of musical notes played simultaneously.

**Musical scales and keys:** The group of musical notes that forms the basis of a composition. Notes and chords from the same musical key can create harmony when used together within a composition.

# Apple's accessible features

Apple has a range of features which improve accessibility. These are built directly into the operating system of devices that can run apps (iPhones, iPads and the latest computer models). These features are beneficial for supporting vision, hearing, and motor skills as well as simplifying the user interface, improving ease of use for people who may find functions within an app too complex. Full details of all Apple accessible features and instructions can be found on their website: <https://www.apple.com>.

## Guided Access

**Who it's good for: People who are less familiar with technology, neurodiverse people, people living with neurological challenges, children and young adults.**

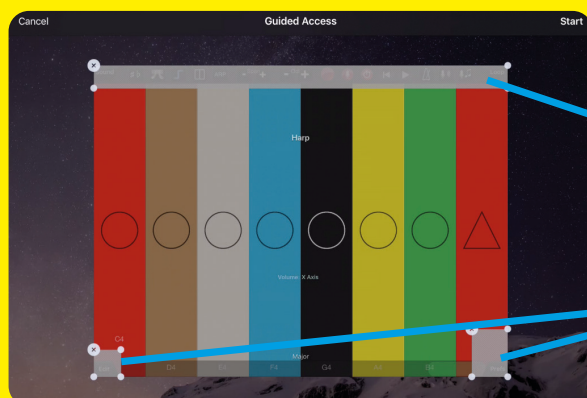
Guided Access is a feature that allows you to lock your device into a single app, and control which features are available within the app.

This is very useful when using your device as a creative workshop tool as it enables you to tailor how the app is interacted with.

Software buttons and menus can be deactivated so the user can only access chosen parts of the screen. This prevents accidentally changing settings or closing the app which can disrupt user experience in certain settings. For example this can be particularly useful when supporting people to explore creative apps that involve drawing or playing a musical instrument. These kinds of apps can be best enjoyed using a variety of unrestricted physical gestures.

Guided Access is a versatile feature as you can limit access to specific parts of the screen. You do this by drawing a marquee around these areas. Once enabled, Guided Access can only be switched off by entering a code on the device.

To find out how to set up Guided Access and other accessible features for your device see the Apple website: <https://support.apple.com>.



Access to specific parts of the screen can be restricted using the marquee tool function.

## Voice Control

**Who it's good for:** People with vision impairment, people who experience challenges with fine motor skills.

You can set up your device to be controlled by voice using customisable phrases. You can navigate and interact with your device using your voice to tap, swipe, type and more.

## Switch Control

**Who it's good for:** People with vision impairment, People who experience challenges with fine motor skills.

Switch Control allows you to control your device using a single switch or multiple switches.

You can use your device as a switch - for example the camera can be used as a two way switch, triggering one command when you move your head to the left and the other when you move your head to the right. You can also connect an external switch such as a Bluetooth or Made for iPhone switch.

Switch Control is customisable for both beginners and advanced users — you can simplify existing actions or create your own.

## Screen Orientation Lock

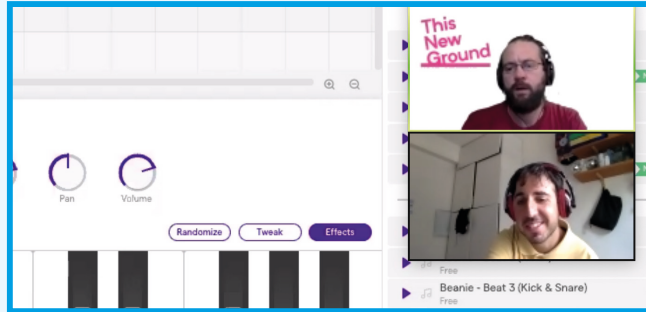
**Who it's good for:** People less familiar with technology, neurodiverse people, people living with neurological challenges, children and young adults.

You can lock the screen orientation on your device to ensure that the screen doesn't auto rotate when moved. This ensures the user can focus on freely using the device, holding it at different angles without the distraction of the screen orientation changing.

To lock the screen orientation, access the control centre on your device (on an iPad you do this by swiping down from the top right corner of the screen). Tap the lock symbol, the screen orientation will now be locked and will show red. Tap again to unlock.



# The Bridge Project May 2020 - October 2020



**"I'm excited to make music, something new, I didn't think we could make music online, I thought it was impossible."**

*Richie, TNG Member*

The Bridge Project was created in response to the social restrictions caused by the COVID -19 pandemic. Working with our community of learning disabled artists we have developed new, inclusive collaborative methods of digital music-making via online platforms.

Members of the TNG collective collaborated with community musician Sam Dook from Lifesize. Together, we explored and developed new digital tool-kits. We have shared new music created as part of this research and designed a selection of resources to serve as blueprints, supporting the digital and remote creative engagement of others.

Our research findings will determine the future design and delivery of TNG and Lifesize projects, acting as a catalyst for introducing new digital tools and models to our methodology.

This Project was supported by Arts Council England's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund and The London Community Foundation.

**[www.thisnewground.com](http://www.thisnewground.com) [www.lifesize.org.uk](http://www.lifesize.org.uk)**