Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) Technology Bulletin

Welcome to our inaugural Children and Young People's Technology Bulletin!

Our aim is to inform both parents and children of some of the different technology solutions available across a range of platforms and devices, looking at Phone apps and games, safeguarding issues and the latest smart technology.

For our first bulletin we have put together a list of the accessibility features found on both an Android and Apple phones. This is based on feedback received from parents wanting to know the best mobile phone for their vision impaired child.

As you can imagine, there is no right or wrong answer to this, it will depend upon the level of vision the child has, their ability to use a mobile phone, whether the family already prefer Android or Apple Technology and the budget available. It is always useful if the child can test both types of phone and understand the different features available.

We also have some top tips for phone usage and some VI friendly phone games which may be worth checking out. Please note, we have not tested all the games in full.

Our next bulletin we will be showcasing the new Ray-Ban Meta Glasses, their use and some top tips for using them out and about.

However, what else would you like us to cover in our next bulletin? Have you got a question you would like us to try and answer or an area of technology you would like us to explain more? Your feedback and questions will really help us to focus on what parents would like to know.

If you have a question or area of technology for us to explore, please do send an email to CYPSAdmin@sightforsurrey.org.uk
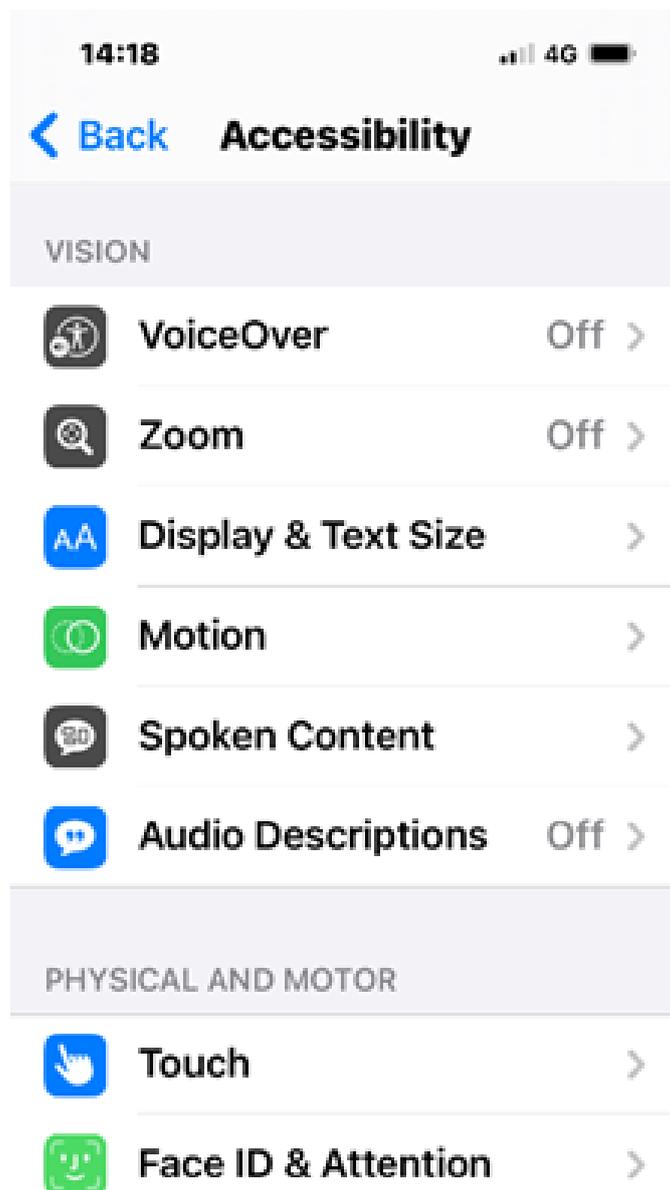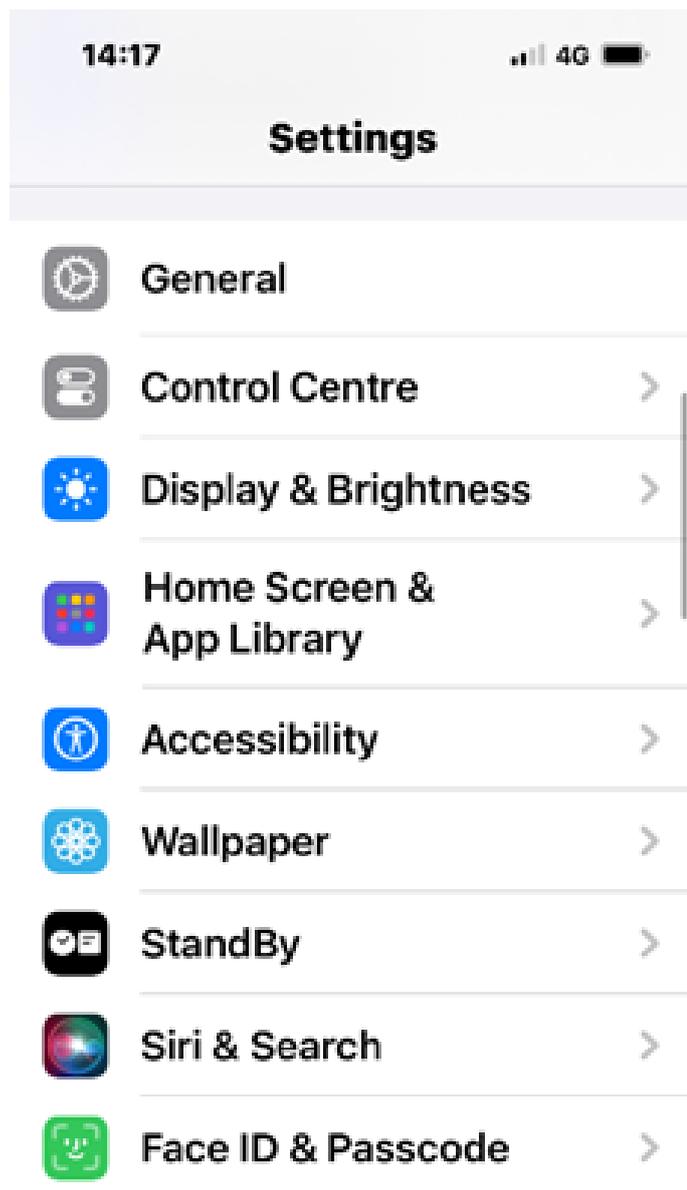
If you need more detailed guidance on using a phone, please refer to the bank of resources available on this link - ICT Handouts & Tutorials - Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey
Thank you and happy reading.

Children and Young People's Team
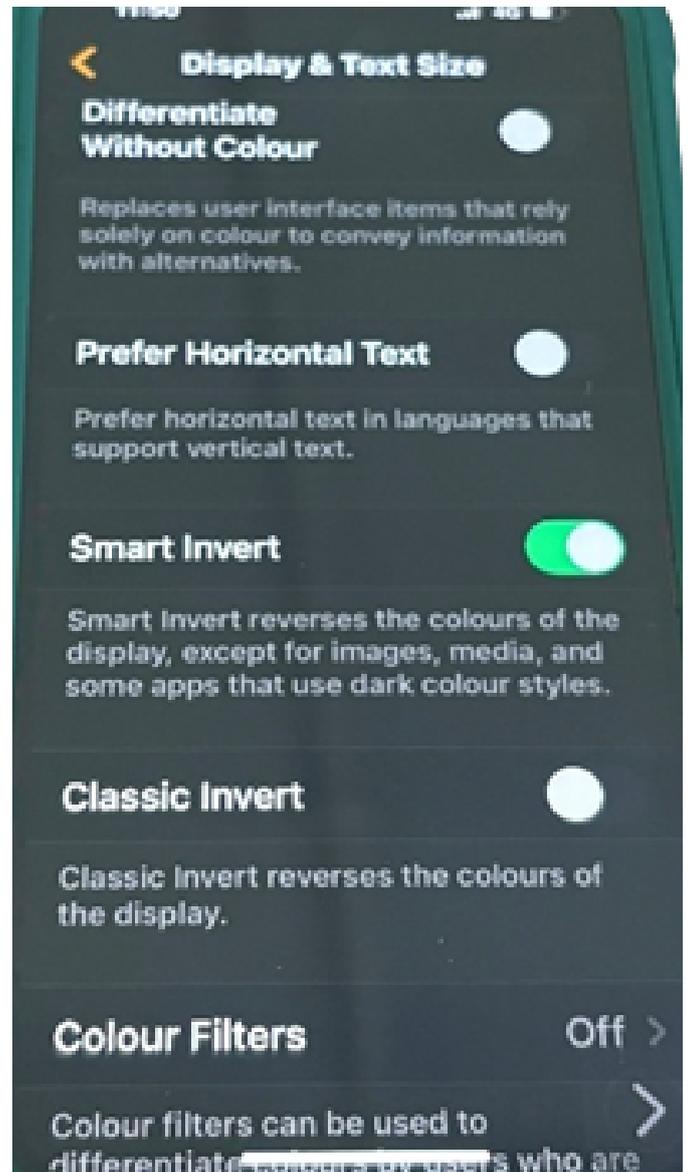
1. Accessibility features on Apple devices

Settings

⚙	General
▤	Control Centre ›
☀	Display & Brightness ›
▦	Home Screen & App Library ›
♿	Accessibility ›
❀	Wallpaper ›
▣	StandBy ›
🔵	Siri & Search ›
🟢	Face ID & Passcode ›

‹ **Back** **Accessibility**

VISION

👁	VoiceOver	Off ›
🔍	Zoom	Off ›
AA	Display & Text Size	›
◎	Motion	›
💬	Spoken Content	›
💬	Audio Descriptions	Off ›

PHYSICAL AND MOTOR

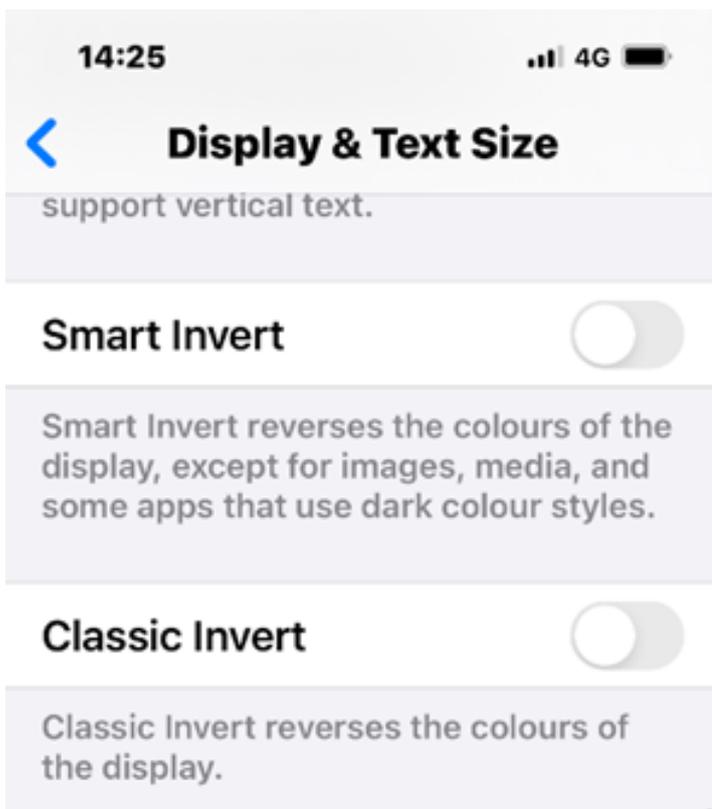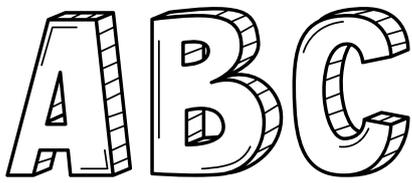|		
👆	Touch	›
🙂	Face ID & Attention	›

Invert colours (Smart and Classic)

This feature reverses colours on the screen to reduce glare and improve contrast.

Settings → Accessibility → Display & Text Size → Invert Colours

- Smart Invert: reverses most colours except images.
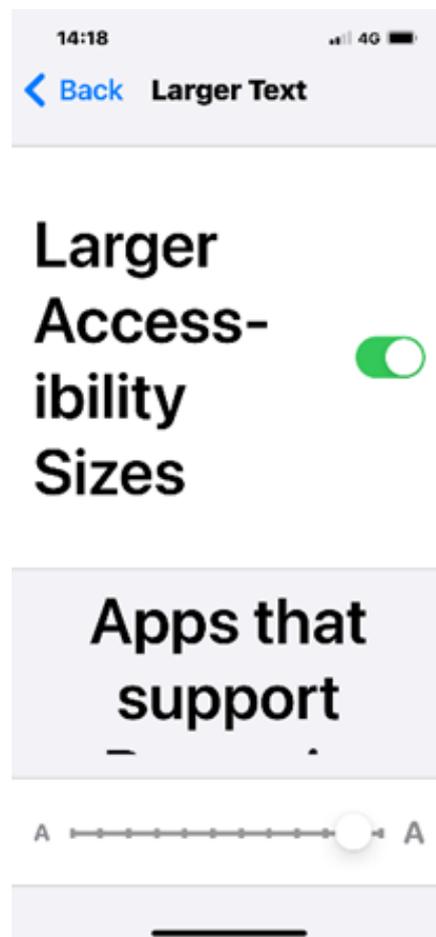- Classic Invert: reverses all colours, including images.

Larger text

Increases text size across supported apps like Calendar, Mail, Contacts, and Messages. Increases contrast between text and background.

Settings → Accessibility → Display & Text Size → Larger Text.

Turn on 'Larger Accessibility Sizes' and use the slider to set your preferred size.
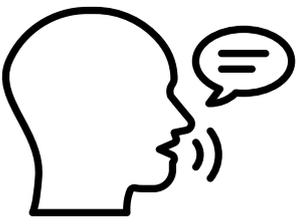
Zoom feature

Acts as a built-in magnifier to enlarge parts of the screen. Useful for reading messages and seeing photographs.

Settings → Accessibility → Zoom.

 How to use:

· Enable Zoom and use three fingers to double-tap on the screen to zoom in or out.

· Choose Zoom Region to select:

 1. Full Screen Zoom: enlarges the entire display on the screen.

2. Window Zoom: enlarges a specific area. You can drag the magnified box around the screen to view certain areas.
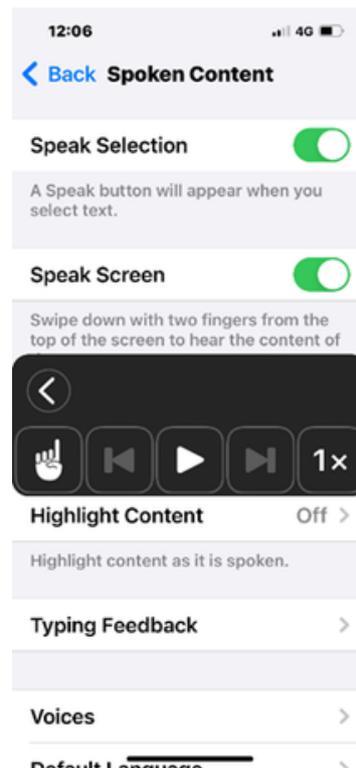
Spoken content

Phone reads text aloud — useful for messages, emails, or web pages.

Settings → Accessibility → Spoken Content.

Turn on Speak Selection and Speak Screen, then enable Show Controller under Speech Controller.

Once enabled, a small speech icon appears on-screen that looks like a black arrow. You can drag this around the screen to put in a place that is best for you.

Open up a page that contains text. Tap to play, pause, or adjust speed. Use the finger icon to have the phone read any text under your finger - you can drag your finger around the screen, don't break contact with the screen.
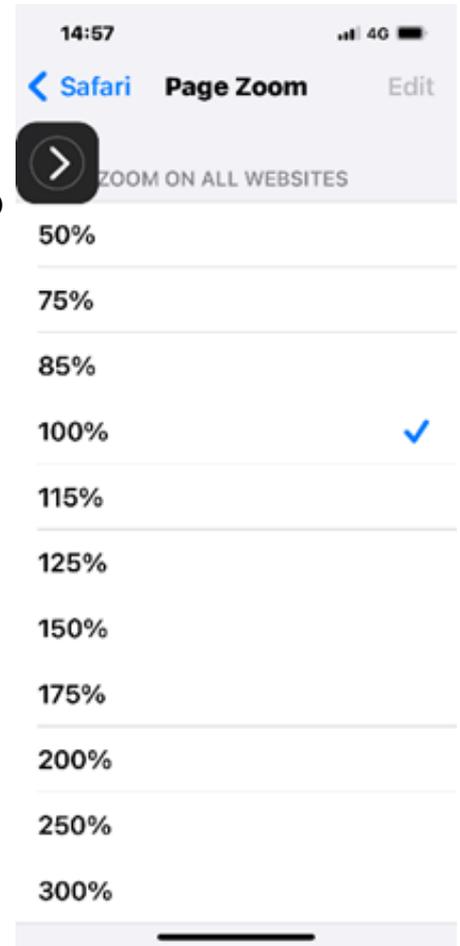
Web zoom

Sets a preferred zoom level for Safari websites.

Settings → Safari → Page Zoom.
Select your desired percentage and test by opening up
an internet page to check sizing.

14:57		..ıl 4G ▪
‹ Safari	**Page Zoom**	Edit

ZOOM ON ALL WEBSITES

50%

75%

85%

100%   ✔

115%

125%

150%

175%

200%

250%

300%

Audio Description

Provides narration describing visual details in videos
or movies.

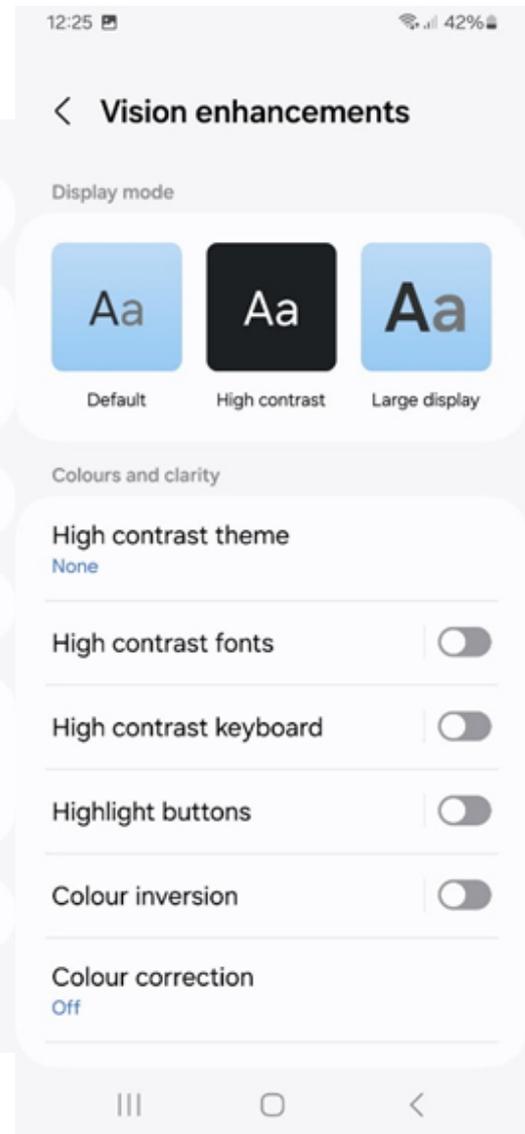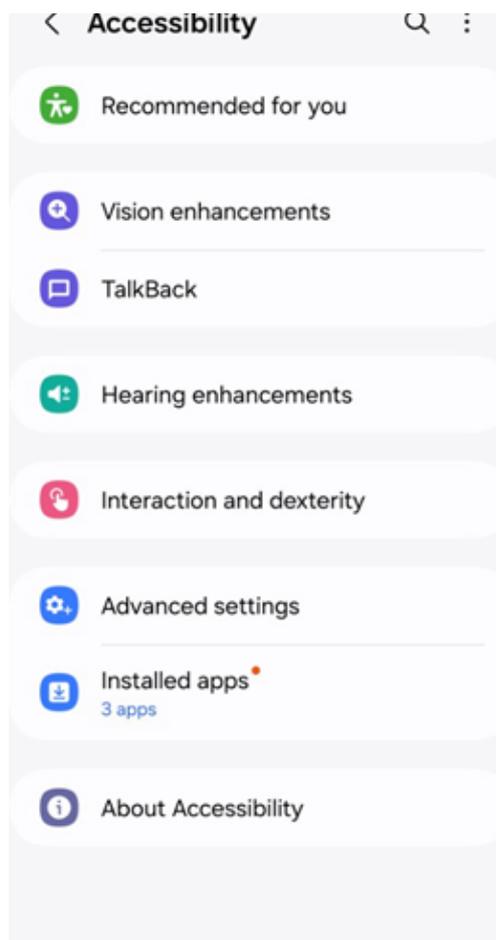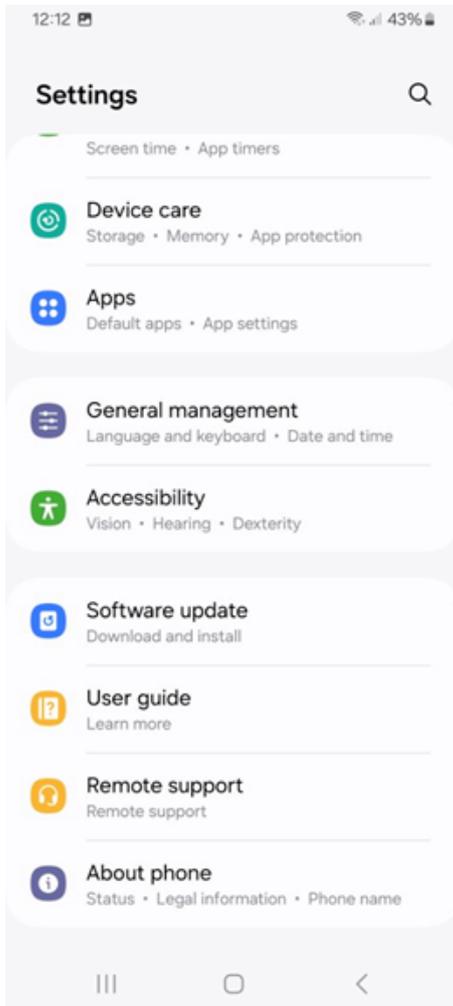Settings → Accessibility → Audio Descriptions

Sound recognition

Alerts users when the iPhone detects certain sounds (doorbells, alarms,
crying, etc.). Useful for awareness when visual cues aren't accessible.
Settings → Accessibility → Sound Recognition.

2. Accessibility features on Android devices

Settings screen (12:12):
- Screen time · App timers
- Device care — Storage · Memory · App protection
- Apps — Default apps · App settings
- General management — Language and keyboard · Date and time
- Accessibility — Vision · Hearing · Dexterity
- Software update — Download and install
- User guide — Learn more
- Remote support — Remote support
- About phone — Status · Legal information · Phone name

Accessibility screen:
- Recommended for you
- Vision enhancements
- TalkBack
- Hearing enhancements
- Interaction and dexterity
- Advanced settings
- Installed apps — 3 apps
- About Accessibility

Vision enhancements screen (12:25):

Display mode
- Aa — Default
- Aa — High contrast
- Aa — Large display

Colours and clarity
- High contrast theme — None
- High contrast fonts
- High contrast keyboard
- Highlight buttons
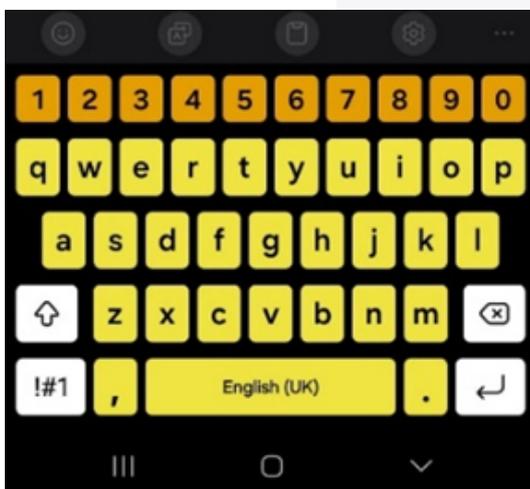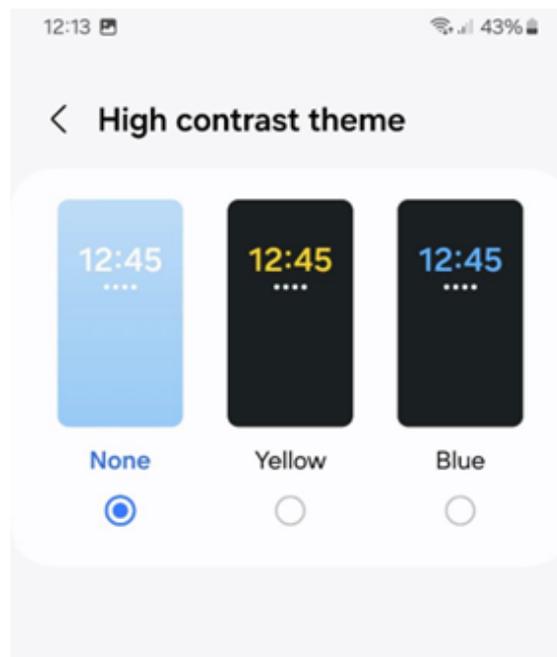- Colour inversion
- Colour correction — Off

High contrast options

Makes text and backgrounds easier to distinguish.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements.

- High Contrast Theme: yellow or blue text on black background.
- High Contrast Fonts: outlines around text to improve visibility.
- High Contrast Keyboard: yellow or black text options

Colour correction

Adjusts screen colours to improve visibility for colour blindness or visual comfort.
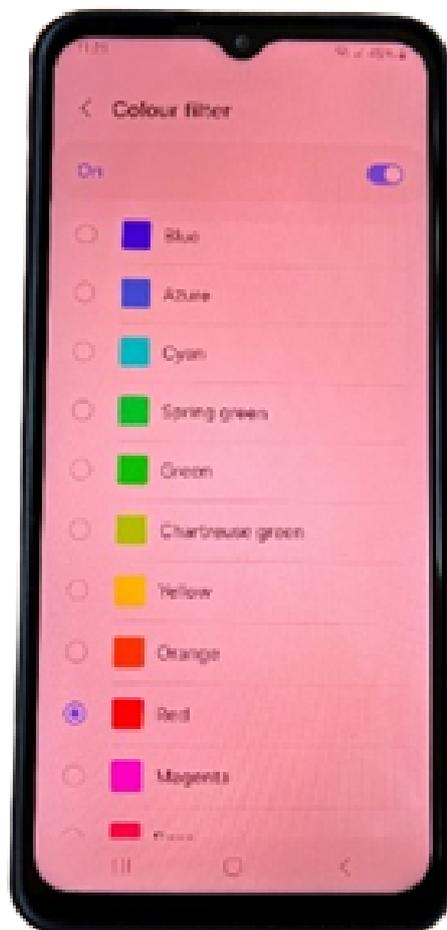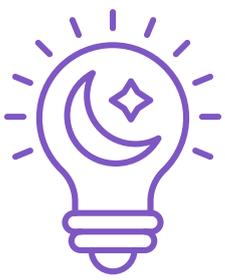
Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Colour Correction.

Choose between red-green, green-red, blue-yellow, or greyscale.

Colour filters

Colour Filter adds a tinted overlay. You can adjust opacity using the slider.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Colour Filter
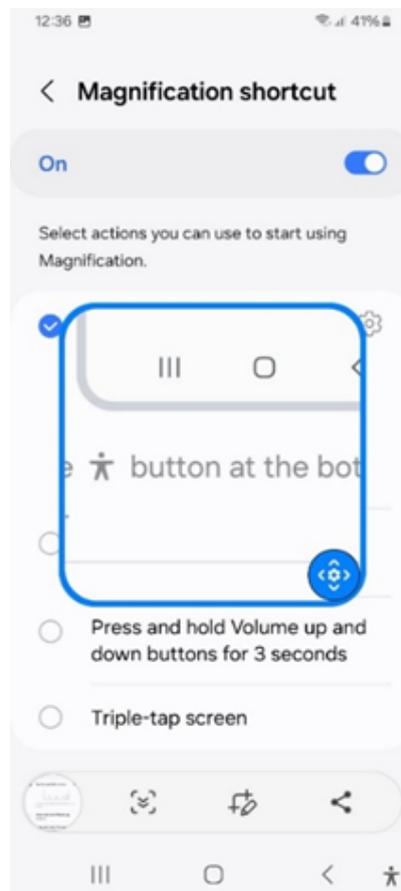
Extra Dim

Adds an extra dimming layer to reduce brightness in low-light conditions.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Extra Dim.

Magnification

Magnifies parts of the screen for easier reading. Enable the magnifier and click on the accessibility icon in the bottom right corner of the screen. The magnifier comes onto the screen, and you can move this around the screen to magnify different areas to read. Click the icon again to close.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Magnification
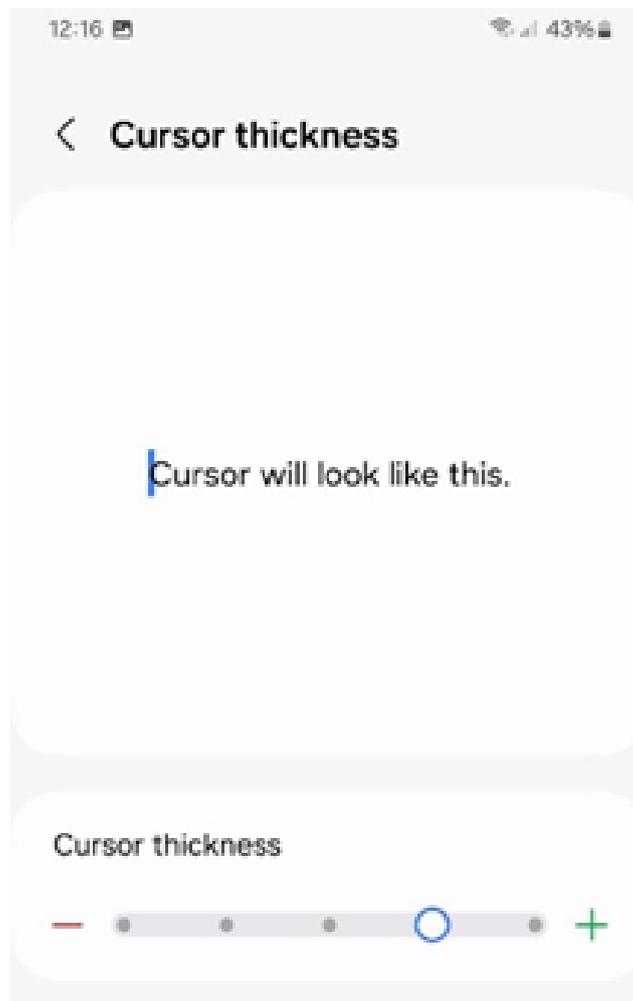
Magnifier

Magnifier uses the camera with a zoom bar to enlarge real-world text or objects.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Magnifier

Cursor thickness

Makes the text editing cursor more visible when writing messages.

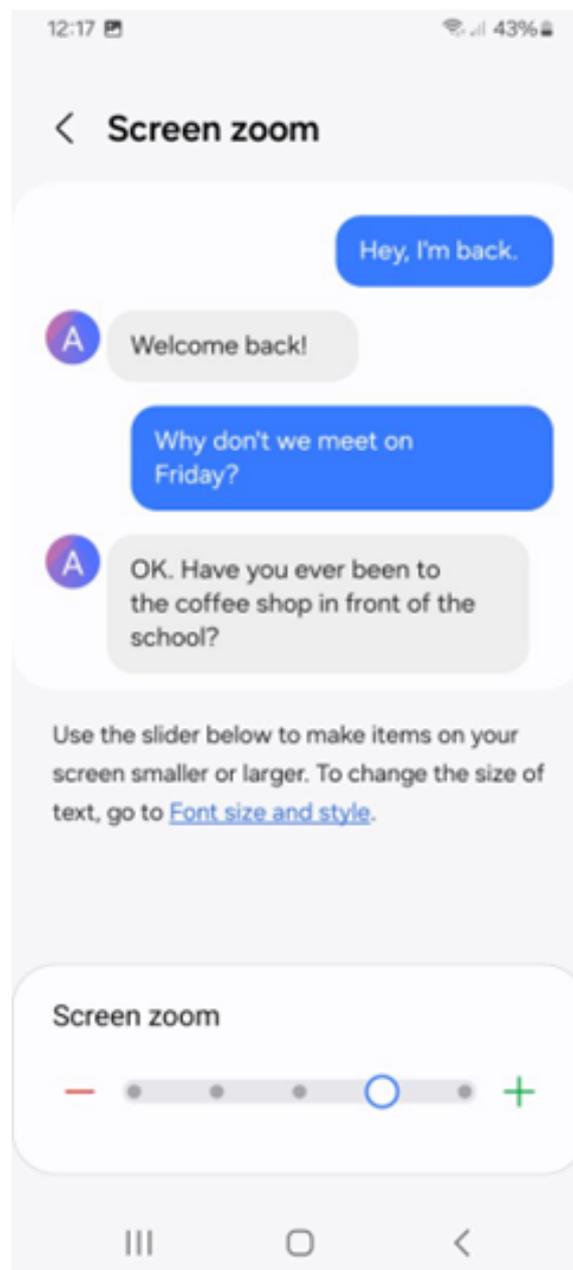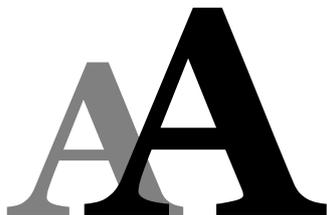Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Cursor Thickness

Screen Zoom

Permanently enlarge your screen using the slider. Your selection will save and reflect on your screen in other apps.

Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Screen Zoom. Use the slider to adjust size.
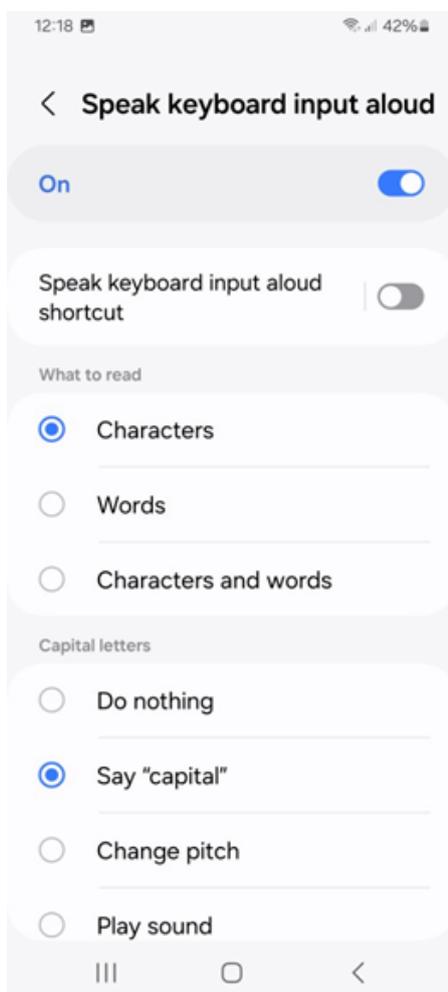
Font Size and Style

Choose a new font style from the provided options or download your own.

Change the font size, make it bold or enlarge it.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Font Size and Style.

Speak Keyboard Input Aloud

Speaks letters or words as you type messages or search the internet. Choose to hear capital letters.

Settings → Accessibility → Vision Enhancements → Speak Keyboard Input Aloud.

3. Top Tips

Introduce one accessibility feature at a time so your child can adjust comfortably.·

Encourage your child to explore and experiment with different settings
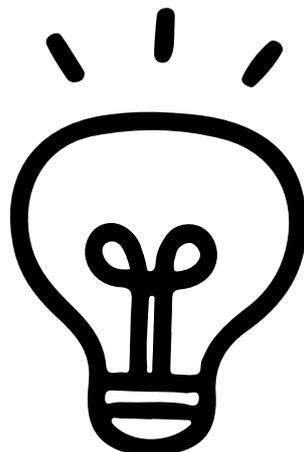
Save preferred combinations using accessibility shortcuts for quick access.

Keep the device software up to date for the latest accessibility improvements.

Create a simple home screen layout with only key apps visible.

Consider using parental controls such as Apple Screen Time or Google Family Link to support safe and confident use.

Agree clear family rules around online safety and screen time.
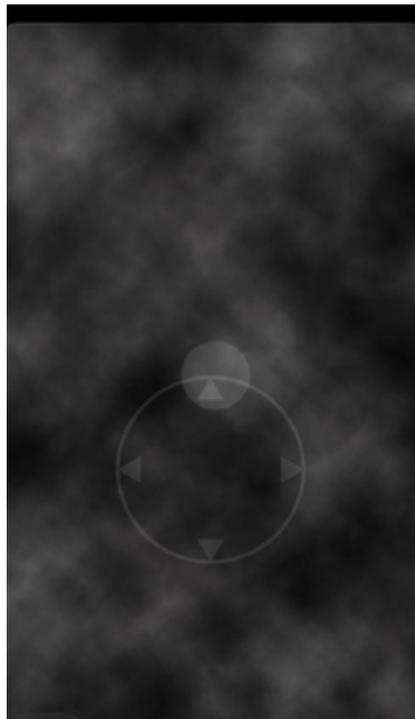
4. Games and Apps

Sensory light box - £3.99

- Animation and sound which supports cause and effect
- Supports children of different ages and individual needs

Aimed at older children:

A blind legend – free

- Action-adventure
- Purely audio-based game
- To play - swipe on the phone screen and use as a joystick to follow a story

Audio game hub - free

Different games to try

- Has graphics but also uses audio games such as archery which have auditory elements to help you locate the bullseye
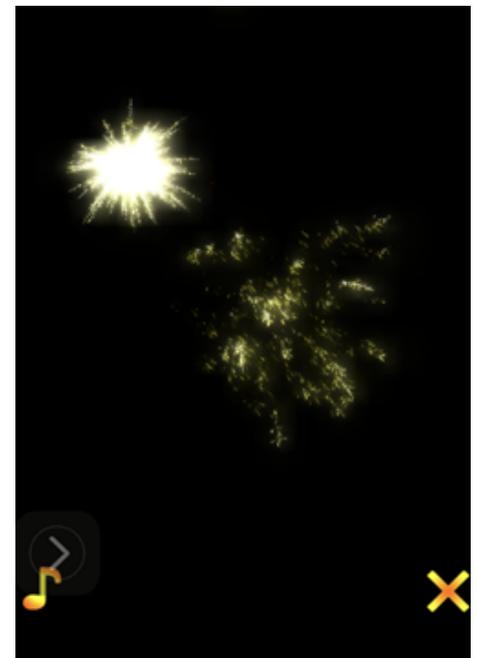

Aimed at younger children:

Infant zoo - free

- Colour contrasted images of animals
- Vibration on pressing the screen giving tactile feedback
- Noises of the animals

I love fireworks – free

- Colourful fireworks appear on touching the screen

Baby piano - free

· Colourful games

· Animal noises

· Piano to make your own tunes

5. Further support

If you are after more tech info and advice, our website has a bank of resources to refer to:

ICT Handouts & Tutorials - Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey

· Apple Accessibility Support: https://www.apple.com/accessibility

· Android Accessibility Support: https://support.google.com/accessibility

· Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB): https://www.rnib.org.uk

· Perkins school for the blind- apps and games for children:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVzScSzmiCs