

DATING



The apple of my *i*

Finding a soulmate is one of life's appiest moments, says **Jo Barnett**

IN A world where we have everything at the press of a button and at billion-pixel resolution, what qualities do you expect to find in a partner?

Let's compare your wish list to one of new tablet computers. You can read a book, manage your photographs, play the piano — and that's just the basic functions.

No wonder you become confused when looking for a date. Where do you start? How can we compare?

With your new love already in your hand, who has the time to dedicate to dating?

It is far less challenging to get familiar with your iPad than to understand the mechanics of a woman!

My seven-year-old son seems to know more about his iPhone Touch than he does about feelings.

Even having a life coach for a mother has not been enough to tempt him away from the thrills of the flashing lights and the speed of a Nintendo.

If I had to compete for a man's attention with any new high-tech device, I am quite sure that the wireless connection would win hands down.

Imagine that you were asked to focus on dating as though you were designing a new app — one that would give you absolutely everything you were looking for in one device.

First of all, you would need to



look into your ethos and to ask yourself, what is the most important thing about this project and what will you put into it so that you eventually get the right product made?

Let's say you start by giving your project plenty of thought, engaging a panel of advisors even and then allocating lots of time to development, a couple of years, perhaps.

Add a great big helping of TLC and some resilience for when things go wrong.

This important project will need to be prioritised, given plenty of love and understanding to help it grow.

You will probably want to try out your new device in various settings — in a coffee shop, a cinema, at the park, perhaps abroad, to get the full picture

of how it works and whether it is right for the purpose.

How will you carry the device around with you?

Will you leave it at the bottom of the boot or wrap it up and carry it

protectively, tucked away in a smart case?

How will I know if it is the right device for me? you ask. A tricky question.

Like technology, people are not perfect and have many flaws, just like you.

You need to take time to discover how they work, what lights them up, what shuts them down. Put in the time to create something special, be resilient and loving — and create something just for you.

Jo Barnett is a dating coach and co-ordinator of Connect Jewish Dating www.connectjewishdating.com info@connectjewishdating.com



My seven-year-old son knows more about his iPhone than about his feelings