

SMART Boards

Interactive white boards with laptop computers

The SMART Board is an exceptional teaching tool that has transformed my classroom, enabling me to engage my students every day in new and expanded learning activities.

*Laurie Taciuk, Special Education Teacher
Giant Steps Toronto/York Region*

I like to do A, B, C's and read stories on the screen.

Mikayla, age 8, Giant Steps student



Engaging kids with autism

Unmatched in their ability to engage and motivate children with autism, our SMART Boards have opened up countless learning opportunities for our kids here at Giant Steps. While many children with autism have difficulty processing auditory input, most are strong visual learners, and displayed on these 5' x 4' screens in full colour, our lessons now capture their attention, enabling our teachers to much more effectively engage them in learning.

Bringing lessons to life

The SMART Board's touch screen capability is enabling our students to become physically involved in the lesson. Working directly on the screen, they can move pictures or words, fill in the blanks, write letters or words, turn pages and wipe the board clean with an electronic eraser. Their physical engagement in the lesson and the immediate feedback they receive improves their attention span and is enabling them to process and internalize learning.



Removing barriers to learning

A central challenge for children with autism is communication; 50% are non-verbal. Many also struggle with fine motor control which makes printing and keyboarding challenging for our kids. With the ability to communicate and participate in the lesson with a finger, a wand or a computerized pen or keyboard, the SMART Board is an effective teaching tool that is removing these obstacles for the children with autism that we serve.

Teaching classroom skills

Our SMART Boards are allowing our teachers to interact more effectively with a greater number of children at one time. Working in a group or as a whole class, our students are learning important skills such as sitting still and focusing, raising their hands and taking turns, and acknowledging others' achievements. These skills are critical to their ability to participate meaningfully in their local schools, a long term goal here at Giant Steps.



Providing limitless learning activities

The vast number of activities and programs that are available for use on a SMART Board through their laptop computers are giving our teachers the tools to address our kids' needs in every developmental area:

- reading comprehension and literacy
- comprehension of receptive language and expanded vocabulary
- printing, writing and keyboarding
- math
- calendar and social skills
- attention and turn-taking
- daily living skills