

iPads

iPad 2's, protective iAdaptor cases with speakers, and apps

Our iPads are giving my students a voice, and enabling me to provide them with unique and exciting learning experiences.

*Stacey Shuster, Special Education Teacher
Giant Steps Toronto/York Region*

The iPad helps me write sentences and do my work.

Michael, age 10, Giant Steps student



At Giant Steps, iPads are everywhere

Whether our students are at work or play in our gym, library, therapy or class rooms, their iPads are with them. With its large touch screen and thousands of apps, iPads are highly engaging for our kids who are strong visual learners but have significant challenges with attention, auditory input and fine motor control. In addition, iPads are easily modifiable, predictable and portable, making them especially suitable for our children in every environment.

Providing practical solutions

iPads are an affordable and immediately accessible option for our children. For most students, they have replaced traditional communication devices and picture symbol books, which were very costly and difficult to amend. Loading apps on our iPads and individualizing them for each student is done on the spot. Our iAdaptor cases have transformed the iPads further, providing voice output, extra protection, and preventing kids from inadvertently moving off the screen.

Giving kids a voice

Loaded with the Proloquo2go app and speakers, our non-verbal students and those with emerging language are using iPads to communicate. Our kids use symbols and photos to formulate words, sentences or messages which can be communicated in type and/or through the iPad's voice output feature. Our staff are using the iPads to communicate to students, giving them the visual input they need to process directions, schedules and learning.

Fostering learning

Integrated with our SMART Boards or used independently, we are now teaching a wide array of subjects on iPads, including reading and literacy, math, social skills, daily living activities, printing and keyboarding. With an app for every need, subject area and level of ability, our kids now have endless opportunities for learning!

Coping with the challenges of autism

Addressing the unique needs of children with autism, many new and innovative apps are enabling us to motivate, reward and calm our students using scheduling and timing tools, games, music, social stories and videos.

Helping kids with autism fit in

The "cool factor" of using an iPad is providing a natural link with typically developing children, lowering barriers between them and our students, and facilitating our students' integration with typical kids in their local public schools.

