

SMART education solutions helping students in special education schools

SES El Corro and El Pino de Obregón, Valladolid/Spain



A student of CEE El Corro completes an exercise in the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard.

Two Special Education Schools (SES) in Spain - El Corro in Valladolid and SES El Pino de Obregón in Simancas - are using SMART Board® interactive whiteboards to assist with the learning process of their students with special needs. The SMART Boards are also helping the schools effectively reach the learning needs for students with autism and sensory limitations. "We seek to motivate all of our students and SMART Board interactive whiteboards are enabling us to do that," says Rubén Ganzábal, Therapist and Educator at SES El Corro.

Administrators and teachers at SES El Corro are focused on children with severe autism. They have 33 students divided into three different educational levels. To enhance teaching and foster an active learning process, SES El Corro has implemented SMART Board interactive whiteboards. "We have to innovate and seek attractive new solutions for the students. With interactive whiteboards the learning process is much easier and students pay more attention," says Elena García López, Director of SES El Corro.

The teachers at SES El Corro say that SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software is a valuable part of SMART education solutions. "The software enables us to create interesting lessons, making it easier to encourage the students. There is no comparison between teaching all day from a desk and working with students at interactive whiteboards," says Ganzábal. Teachers use interactive lessons to engage students with attention deficit disorder. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard helps the students stay connected with the lesson and learning. López explains, "The SMART Board interactive whiteboard helps the students feel that they own their learning process. They come to understand that their body has a way of learning and their finger is useful for writing. This technology helps them discover their own world."

Challenge

Provide a tailored education solutions that is adapted to the needs of autistic students. Teachers were looking for tools that would make it easier to teach in classrooms for students with special needs.

Solution

SES El Pino de Obregón and SES El Corro decided to implement SMART education solutions. The schools installed SMART Board® interactive whiteboards and SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software in several classrooms

Result

SMART products have changed the way teachers teach, giving them more opportunities to involve students, increase student motivation and further student understanding.

To meet the learning needs of students with mental disorders, teachers have to teach differently than the typical approach used in standard schools. Educators use different materials and displays and with the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard they have many more opportunities to reach the need of their students. Digital lesson activities and objects displayed on the SMART Board are highly visual and students often respond more favorably, with greater understanding as a result.

“Often times our students do not have problems with comprehension but they may express themselves poorly. We work a lot with images. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard makes it possible to use pictures and words simultaneously. The ability to include visual references is excellent for these students in communicating more effectively,” says López. Ganzábal enjoys using different colors of digital ink during lessons to help students learn and work with colors. “The ability to easily access to internet is vital for us because we can open index cards directly and easily work with pictograms,” says Ganzábal.

In special education schools, the implementation of new technologies radically changes both teaching and learning. SES El Pino de Obregón has installed SMART Board interactive whiteboards in almost all classrooms. “Interactive whiteboards have transformed traditional classrooms into modern and technology-enabled learning spaces,” says Javier Hermosa Martín, Director of SES El Pino de Obregón. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard has made learning and understanding more accessible for students with special education needs. “Interactive whiteboards make a lot of things possible. We try to show to our students that new technologies are useful. For this reason, we have adapted all of the lesson content to incorporate the features of the interactive whiteboard,” says Martín.

With SMART Boards in classrooms, students are actively involved in the learning process. The day-to-day classroom environment is invigorated and student learning has improved. “Students are in the center of the lessons. They can transform images by themselves, which brings more magic into the classroom,” explains Martín. Teachers use SMART Notebook™ software to enhance lesson content and tailor lessons to meet the cognitive level of their students. “We can show routine actions, such as what they are going to eat or how to fold a sock,” says Ganzábal.

Social relationships are very important for the students. When they are between the ages of 15 and 21 and making the transition to adult life, social relationships become even more crucial. The development of digital skills helps to improve their social adaptation, helping them articulate their ideas and thoughts more effectively. “We teach them to have more autonomy and to involve their parents in the learning process. All of the content is focused on stimulating their sensorial capacities. We try to incorporate new technologies as much as we can,” says López. With SMART education solutions, both SES El Corro and El Pino de Obregón have increased their effectiveness of teaching students with special needs. SMART products save the teachers’ time related to lesson development, while giving them more opportunities to engage students and effectively meet their learning needs.



Students are now the protagonists of the lessons made in Centro de Educación Especial El Pino de Obregón in Valladolid.

“SMART Board interactive whiteboards offer the possibility of global learning for autistic students. These new technologies allow the students to be active in their own learning process”.

Elena García López, Director of SES El Corro de Valladolid

About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that change the way the world works and learns. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, our focus is on developing a variety of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, making collaboration and learning with digital resources more natural. Our products have transformed teaching and learning in more than two million classrooms worldwide, reaching over 40 million students and their teachers. In business, our Freestorm™ visual collaboration solutions improve the way that people work and collaborate, enabling them to be more productive and reduce costs.

SMART Technologies

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