

Subject: Cost & Advantages of Implementing iPad as a Learning Tool for Speech & Special Ed

Written by Barbara Fernandes, the founder and director of Smarty Ears. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/80997904/The-Cost-and-Advantages-of-Implementing-the-iPad-as-a-Learning-Tool-for-Speech-Therapy-amp-Special-Education>

[iPads 4 Learning](#) states **some educational reasons for using the iPad:**

- Users to date are finding that through the use of different apps, students are able to choose the type of product they construct to demonstrate their understanding.
- The iPad is a personal device and reasonably priced to act as a 1 to 1, anywhere, anytime learning device.
- The abundance of apps and access to information on a vast range of topics allows students to pursue areas they are interested in learning about.
- Notes can be kept in one spot, commented on and available anywhere.
- The touch interface correlates to the technology students use in their everyday life and allows a high level of interactivity.
- A 10 hour battery life means the iPad can be used throughout the entire school day.
- The instant start-up of the iPad means greater use of class time for learning.
- There is anywhere, anytime access to current information that contains text, sound, images and interactivity. Information is represented with rich multimedia and data visualization techniques.
- Light and portable, easily carried in the school bag and to and from class.
- Heavy schoolbooks could in time be replaced by virtual eBooks and these can be updated in a timely fashion. Documents and tasks can be uploaded to iBooks by the teacher and downloaded onto the iPad by the student and vice versa. Texts and documents can be annotated and commented on by multiple students and teachers.
- The iPad is seen to be an intuitive device and minimal technical support is required.
- The iPad can be used with peripherals. For example the iPad can be slotted into a case which connects to a full size keyboard for extended periods of writing. There are also a number of other docking options which provide access to a full

sized keyboard. Voice recognition apps can also be useful for inputting large amounts of text and is another option worth investigating.

Be sure to check out: iPads for Learning Getting Started Guide "[Classroom Ideas for Learning with the iPad](#)".

Videos worth watching:

- From [ABC News](#), this video shows a teacher using the iPad as a teaching tool with her severely disabled students.
- This video called "[Special Education and the iPad](#)" features Dennis Lamme, a special education student who uses the iPad to further his learning. The video was shot and edited on an iPod Touch.
- The Times tells the story of [Owen Cain](#), a victim of a degenerative disease called spinal muscular atrophy. He acquired the disease as an infant, and there is no known cure for it. Although his parents bought him a number of computer devices to make his life more pleasant, they were all failures -- until he met the iPad.
- iHelp for Autism - Autistic children like Leo Rosa are showing remarkable promise on the iPad. Read more about [autistic children and iPads](#) in Ashley Harrell's feature story.
- Leo's life was transformed when a five-dollar raffle ticket turned into a brand-new iPad: [The iPad: a Near-Miracle for My Son With Autism](#).
- Laura Theriot, mother of 10-year-old Tom, [knows firsthand how incredible that breakthrough can be](#). Using Proloquo2Go on the iPad, she has learned things about Tom through conversation that she'd never imagined over the years.
- The benefits of Proloquo2Go on the iPad are not restricted to children, as blogger Glenda Watson Hyatt points out. Glenda has cerebral palsy that affects her motor skills and her speech. She recently bought an iPad and Proloquo2Go. Watch [account of the way it has changed her life](#).
- Wall Street Journal's Jennifer Valentino-DeVries discusses [iPad Gives Special Needs Kids a Boost](#).

Articles worth reviewing:

- [School use of iPad technology and apps for students](#) by Tracy Lynn Cook of the Examiner, offers great ideas for how to use apps to support education with special needs students.
- [Apps for children with special needs are showcased at the Macworld 2011 Mobile Apps showcase](#).

- [iPads provide needed tool for Stamford autistic students](#)

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