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Aspect Vern
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A little about us...

Aspect schools provide specialised evidence-based programs for children aged 4 to 17 with ASD, who require an autism-specific program. The primary focus of the school is to equip students with skills to become as independent as possible and enable them to transition into more inclusive settings. Aspect Vern Barnett School caters for around 130 students across the north side of Sydney.

In our class, the 'pink class', we have six children who are all aged around five years old. Each child has high support needs as they are non-verbal, so we rely very much on visual learning to help with communication.

We love using technology which helps us be creators of our learning and not just consumers through this interactive approach.

Why we entered...

Visual support in our classroom activities is so important and we have always used an old interactive whiteboard which the kids loved - until it started to break. Despite many repair jobs, we could not stop it from cutting in and out which was so frustrating and disappointing for the children. We had started to see small gains in how the children were growing and learning, so it caused a lot of distress when it no longer worked effectively.

Despite our best efforts, we couldn't find other ways to replicate the interaction provided by the whiteboard, it was sad to have to take away this method of learning.

So, we thought we'd share our story with the guys at Promethean to see if they could help us.

What winning means to us...

Our students are heavily reliant on visuals and the ActivPanel gives them a great tool to express themselves and communicate their understanding, which is so important to their learning. Even using it at its most simplified level will allow us to teach spontaneously and cater for students with short attention spans, who will get easily distracted and disengaged with other learning

practices. It is crucial that lessons flow and that the children are kept interested and engaged.

We have so many exciting things that we want to do with the ActivPanel, we have lots of plans, ideas and content that we want to share and we cannot wait to explore them with our children.

Our killer three tips...

- Be creative - our students are non-verbal so we used filming techniques to communicate and make an impact
- Tell a story - we showed the judges who we are, what our needs are, what our situation is and how we could benefit from using an ActivPanel in our classroom
- Express the story through the students' eyes - we tried to show school life from their perspective and the difference engaging in interactive lessons would make in their learning



We love using technology which helps us be creators of our learning and not just consumers through this interactive approach, so when we heard about the Promethean Grant we just had to have a good go!

We are so thrilled to have won the competition because there are so many exciting things that we want to do with the ActivPanel. We have lots of plans, ideas and content that we want to share and we cannot wait to explore them with our children and see the positive gains in their learning. Using this technology in our classroom is going to be fantastic.



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