

# PRIMO

## Case Study | Autism Population

Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, Spring 2016

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### Age group

5 to 10 year olds with ASD

### Group size

1-2 children per playset

### Session leader

Loretta Hopper

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[www.primotoys.com](http://www.primotoys.com)

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Loretta Hopper, 2016



## Activity

Cubetto was used, in 30 minute sessions, to help with issues of executive functioning for children with ASD. It involved such skills as following directions, developing spatial awareness, and general problem solving.

## How was Cubetto used?

We used this wooden toy for toddlers to help overcome executive functioning issues for children with ASD. Students were introduced to the wooden toy materials one at a time, and given the chance to explore the characteristics and functions of each element one at a time. They started with individual command blocks, developing a basic understanding of cause and effect within the game, eventually moving onto increasingly complex tasks that required real programming skills.

## What worked best?

We referred to the sections of the Primo Toys Teacher Guide: Setting up the Play Session, and Introducing Cubetto, the Board, and the Blocks. These steps may require multiple sessions, depending on student need. The ability for students to physically manipulate Cubetto and the blocks directly influenced attentional focus and programming success.

## What was challenging?

Initially, the original floor map proved to be too complicated for these students. The teacher created 3 simpler maps, in order for students to fully grasp the programming concepts. These simpler maps allowed for immediate student success, ensuring continued focus and enthusiasm.

## How did pupils respond?

When the materials and tasks were modified to match students' individual learning needs, the children were completely engaged, grasping new concepts, and extremely happy.

## How did the staff respond?

Wooden toys are always a pleasure to work with. The teaching staff were very impressed with student engagement, problem solving, and time on task. The Teacher Guide was clear and the materials simple to use. Cubetto was an effective learning tool for students with a wide variety of learning styles and cognitive ability. As far as educational toys for toddlers go, this is one of the most effective we've used.



