

# PRIMO

## Case Study | SEN Workshop

SEN Workshop, London, UK, Spring 2016

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**Age group**

7 to 11 year olds

**Group size**

16 children

**Session leader**

Hilary Norton

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Hilary Norton, 2016



## Activity

Hilary Norton is an Advisory Teacher for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who runs ICT, SEN (Special Educational Needs) and Inclusion workshops for kids. This Spring she introduced Cubetto to 16 children to help them learn about programming.

## How was Cubetto used?

When you work with special needs children, using our bodies is essential. During this workshop, we had 3 Cubetto sets, so I divided the class into 3 groups. I first encouraged the kids to 'make friends' with Cubetto by saying "hello". We talked about what each of his blocks could do, and tried them one at a time to test the children's ability to accurately identify each block as a separate instruction. The children took individual turns to decide where they'd want Cubetto to go, and if the sequence was wrong, we debugged the program as a group.

## What worked best?

The best part of this wooden toy, is how it encouraged communication between the kids. Working in groups of 3 or 4 children, the communication skills required are significant. You often need a teaching assistant working alongside the group, but Cubetto really encouraged children to communicate independently.

## What skills did it develop?

As well as communication, Cubetto helped the children to think logically about sequences by problem solving his route on the maps. I would also definitely use it for non-tech subject matters, and turn the game into a story telling device.

## How did pupils respond?

The reaction from the pupils was wonderful. Our class included children with different types of special needs, so they responded to Cubetto in different ways. We had one girl in a wheelchair, who was able to control Cubetto by keeping the board on her lap. It gave her the chance to be completely involved in the same activities as all the other kids. For children with behavioural difficulties, it was great to have a physical, educational wooden toy that gave them the chance to be active, move around, and focus. For those with cognitive delay, Cubetto is perfect because the interaction is so direct. I can't think of a special need this wooden toy wouldn't be good for.

## How did the staff respond?

Cubetto is easily one of the best educational tools for toddlers we've used. You can use it straight out of the box with almost no instructions.

