

Make a Difference - the Nika Project

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Autism Around the World, Dubai

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We are in our profession to MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Nika Project grew from a small idea: Can the same tools that we use in modern technology-rich classrooms work in a classroom around the world that:

- *Has no previous exposure to technology tools*
- *Speaks another language*
- *Teachers have minimal training in special needs education*
- *Minimal resources available*

Khulani School - www.underfourtrees.com

- *300+ Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities*
- *Rural - 3 hours away from the nearest large town*
- *1st year - no running water and no electricity*
- *Some financial support from government and local charities*

Nika Team - 2 week project - 8 total days at the school

- 8 Professionals
- 2 Speech Pathologists with AAC training
- 3 Special Education Teachers
- 2 Tech Support personnel
- 1 Nurse

Tools - Mostly donated - brought over from US

- 1 iPad per classroom (15 total)
- 3 Brookstone Portable projectors
- Multiple low-tech recordable devices (Go Talk)
- Software to create picture symbols (Boardmaker)
- Rechargeable Battery Stations
- Digital Cameras
- Adapters, cords, Power supply outlets (USB)

Apps - Keep it Simple - RECORDABLE - the BIG 5

- **TapSpeak** - simple voice output, narrate and retell a story
- **GoTalk NOW** - vocabulary, syntax, spelling, voice output, teach concepts
- **Pictello/Book Creator** - create books, retell a story or event, teach concepts
- **Bitsboard** - Academic skills around target vocabulary - spelling, sight word recognition, vocabulary, visual processing, handwriting, sequencing
- **ShowMe** - teach a skill with visual and auditory support

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