



Using Smartphones for Visual Supports **A QuickTip from PositivelyAutism.com**

This year, I finally upgraded to a smartphone and have been using it as a resource in my classroom. This tip is very simple, and I'm sure many of you are currently doing something similar, but I wanted to pass it along.

Here's what I've been doing. If I have a student with autism who is supposed to be painting, coloring, making a craft, etc., I bring up a picture on my phone for the student to use as a visual support. For example, a teacher asked a student to come to my classroom to work on coloring a sheet that had a pyramid, a camel, and some palm trees. These would later be cut out to make a craft. As soon as I brought up a picture of the pyramids on my phone, the student became very interested in the process and ended up doing a great job on the craft.

I had a similar experience with a student that needed help painting a book about the planets. When I showed her a picture of each planet on my phone, she was able to complete the activity with less help and she was much more interested in the process. Students with autism generally learn better visually, so something as simple as providing a picture for something you're teaching about can make a big difference.

It is very easy to find pictures. I use Google Images (go to <http://www.google.com/> on your phone's web browser and click "Images" at the top) and do a quick search for the object. When I find a picture, I leave the phone sitting on the desk or table where the student can see it while we work. Just be sure to screen the pictures before showing them to students, because sometimes "questionable" images come up.

In addition to using a photos on a phone, other great resources for these type of visuals are YouTube (again, screen videos first) and tablets and e-readers, such as the Barnes and Noble Nook and Amazon Kindle. I've been using an e-reader tablet with my students this year as well, and it is a great educational tool!

Learn more about the Kindle Fire:



[Kindle Fire, Full Color 7" Multi-touch Display, Wi-Fi](#)