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New technology helping to break barrier of communication in autistic children



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Children with Autism or similar disabilities often can't talk.

That obviously creates a real communication problem for their parents and teachers.

Some parents with autistic children never have the joy of hearing their child, knowing what they want and what they're thinking.

Now, through technology, they're able to learn more and more about their kids, from their kids themselves.

All of the students at a Long Island school have Autism or some other developmental delay, and have trouble communicating.

People used to think they, and kids like them, were more delayed than they truly are, because they couldn't communicate.

Now there are computerized communicators that allow them to express their feelings, and show who they really are.

Teacher Caryl Bank said, "The children's behavior has become better. They now have a chance to express themselves, and what we found is while we use the devices the children have actually developed words. So we have some children who haven't spoken in seven or eight years have actually now nine ten or eleven words."

The communicators come in varying degrees of complexity.

Some are simple picture boards, others are sophisticated computers customized to the individual child.

They cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars to more than \$7000, but a lot of school districts or insurance companies pick up the price tag.

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