

“ One of my students, a fifth grade boy with cerebral palsy, has trouble holding a pencil and writing small enough, and he works at a slower pace. When he got Mathshare, it totally changed his world. He didn't have to rely on a staff member to scribe, and he could go into a general education classroom and keep up with the pace for math. ”

—SHELBY NERO, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, MINNESOTA



CHALLENGE

Shelby has a resource class with some students who stay in the classroom for the day and others who push in to general education classrooms. She works with a fifth grade boy with cerebral palsy who came to her class for math. He has trouble holding a pencil and writing small enough, and he works at a slower pace, so he needs an aide who serves as a scribe when he does math assignments. His math performance is on grade level, but his disability makes it difficult for him to finish all the problems on an assignment. For example, if a worksheet has twenty math questions, Shelby would limit his assignment to five or ten problems because it takes him longer to complete them. The goal is for him to understand how to do the problems, but not necessarily finish all of them.

SOLUTION

Shelby introduced Mathshare to her student who uses a Chromebook. She sets up the full set of problems in Mathshare and assigns them through the Google Classroom integration. Then the student opens the link, does his assignment using Mathshare, and turns it in through Google Classroom. The student learned how to use the app very quickly. He completes all of the problems himself and loves the independence it gives him.

IMPACT

When the student got Mathshare, it totally changed his world for math. He doesn't have to rely on a staff member to scribe for him, and he can go into a general education classroom and keep up with the other students. He is a lot more confident now. His parents are amazed at how much he is doing on his own. Says Shelby, "I'd love to see other students use it, especially those who have some fine motor challenges and experience frustration with paper and pencil activities. Incorporating technology into math would increase motivation and help reduce frustration for a lot of students."

TRY MATHSHARE TODAY

Benetech Mathshare is an inclusive, problem-solving tool that makes learning easier. With Mathshare, students can break problems into parts, solve them step by step, and take notes to show their reasoning. This makes it easier for students to stay focused and for teachers to follow their students' thinking. [Mathshare.benetech.org](https://mathshare.benetech.org).

Benetech is a nonprofit that empowers communities through software for social good. Our work transforms how people with disabilities read and learn, makes it safer for human rights defenders to pursue truth and justice, and connects people to the services they need to live and prosper. We're constantly pursuing the next big social impact.