What is Sphero indi?

indi is the most approachable entry-level learning robot. Driven by color, indi inspires imaginative, play-based learning by empowering kids to develop computational thinking skills and learn the basics of coding and problem solving.

What makes indi great for special education?

- indi is cute and exciting!
- Scalable, customizable activities and challenges
- Practice STEAM and computational thinking with no screens required
- indi’s predictability reduces frustration and maximizes engagement
- Supports language development
- Accessible to learners with visual and auditory impairments
- Helps develop fine motor skills
- High-value reinforcement
- Supports collaboration with peers
- Builds student confidence
Easily Accommodated Challenge Cards

Certain Challenge Cards provide students with two choices so students can practice solving the puzzles themselves before finding the answer on their own.

Challenge Cards can be easily replicated to add accommodations for students to set them up to use non-accommodated Challenge Cards independently.

- Add customized multiple choice options on all challenge cards.
- Create your own choices to present to students depending on how much assistance you think they might need.
- As students develop skills, teachers can adapt the accommodations provided (start with a field of two, move to a field of three, then a field of four) in hopes that eventually students will not need the scaffolding.

Easily create your own Challenge Cards for your students with our DIY Challenge Card Template.
Students who are struggling with decoding can still access indi, as it **doesn’t require students to be able to read** to engage with it.

Students on **any reading level** can engage with indi since indi relies more heavily on **visuals** than text.

indi is also great for students who need an **extra challenge**, since students can take it a step further using the Sphero Edu Jr app to change the configurations of the color tiles, etc.

- This highlights the **adaptability** of the product and how it can be used with students who are just developing their skills to students who need extra challenge.
Considerations for Students Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Multiple/Severe Disabilities

High Levels of Predictability / Expected Behavior

• Because we know that unexpected events are particularly challenging for students with ASD and can lead to frustration, predictability is a big consideration when working with students diagnosed with ASD in terms of increasing confidence and reducing frustration.

• indi always reacts the same to colors (unless students reprogram in the Sphero Edu Jr App) so students can learn what each color tile means, and then can expect the outcome when indi drives over the color tile.

• indi uses cause-and-effect, making it a great tool to use with students to develop language, especially Core Word language development.

• Core Words are words that make up the majority of everything that we say, and can be used in a variety of ways in language. They make up approximately 80% of what we say on a daily basis.

• indi can be a fun and engaging tool to use with students to develop many important language skills, and directly target basic linguistic concepts as well. Some examples indi targets are: colors, temporal cues, and positional cues. It can also be used to indirectly target linguistic concepts like negation and emotion.

Language Development
indi can be a great tool to get students motivated to use and learn new words using AAC or an AAC device.

Typically, AAC devices are comprised primarily of core words. Some ideas of words that can be targeted / utilized while using indi are:

- Go, stop, more, turn, fast, slow, make, it, play, come, finished / all done, on, big, small.

indi can be a really fun and engaging tool for students to dictate actions with a clinician or teacher using the student’s preferred method of communication (whether it’s a high-tech device, or a low-tech form of AAC, or verbal speech, etc.)

Examples using core words (core words are demonstrated in capital letters):

- MAKE IT GO
- Ready, set, GO
- GO SLOW
- GO FAST
- WANT SMALL / BIG TURN
- PUT ON (color tile)
- I WANT MORE
- PLAY MORE

Students with ASD often struggle with abstract concepts, indi is concrete in that (unless programmed differently) the color tiles create a reaction, and the reaction to the color always stays the same.

The concrete rules of “red means stop” “green means go” “yellow means slow down” “purple means celebration,” etc. allows for students to learn the rules more readily and engage with the material without frustration.

Challenge cards provide a structured activity to engage students.
Accessible to Students with Fine Motor Deficits

- Doesn’t require the use of a keyboard, iPad, laptop, etc. to program.
- The color tiles are large and easy to move around and manipulate.
- The color tiles included with the indi Class Pack and Student Kit are rubber which make them easier for student to pick up and move.
- indi fits perfectly in the palm of your hand and does not require the use of any advance finger grasps to hold.

High Levels of Reinforcement

- No matter which color you put down, when indi rolls over it, it’s going to react in some way, providing students with immediate reinforcement.
- Creates a clear contingency for students: color = movement / change
- No delay in reinforcement because of the quick reaction from the color sensors.
- There is a quick reinforcement when indi rolls over the tile with the sound effects.
• indi has a built-in speaker, and it makes a noise every time it rolls over a color tile, allowing students with visual impairments to know the actions indi is taking.

• Color tiles can easily have a braille label added so that students with visual impairments who use braille can decipher between colors.

• We have a customizable template that allows educators to make their own Challenge Cards. Teachers can use this template to make high-contrast challenge cards.
  • Consider making a black background and adding a yellow outline around any text, shapes, and the grid.
Challenge Cards
Young learners can work independently or in groups through self-guided learning with the 15 included Challenge Cards.

*Included with the indi Student Kit & the indi Class Pack*

Educator Guidebook
indi *seamlessly integrates* computational thinking and coding concepts into the *curriculum you are already teaching* with the in-depth Educator Guide Book. This book includes carefully-designed, standards-aligned *lesson plans* for: Directions, Patterns & Sequences, Measuring, Storytelling, and More.

*Included in the indi Class Pack*

Sphero Edu Jr App
In the Sphero Edu Jr app students can control how indi reacts to the world through intuitive yet powerful programming blocks. Reprogram how indi responds to different colors by choosing from a variety of movements, lights, and sounds that appear when you navigate over the associated color tile. *Students do not need to know how to read to use the Sphero Edu Jr app.*

*Free App Download*