



Description: Enhancing Learning through  
mimio® Interactive Technology

no.004

Location: Pine Valley Elementary School , NC



### New technology for a new teacher

Though it seems like she's been at it a lot longer, the fact is that Tara Jarman is just in her second year of teaching second grade at Pine Valley Elementary School in North Carolina. But one of the most important things Tara has learned in these two school years is that technology can go a long way toward making the teaching experience more fruitful for both the students and the teacher. She finds that is especially true when the technology includes a mimio® interactive whiteboard system.

### Goals and Challenges

Tara's class of twenty-one students is a challenge, especially since many of them are struggling readers who require a lot of repetition and reinforcement. That extra attention for over half her class plus the day-to-day challenges of teaching science, math and cursive writing to active seven- and eight-year-olds are prime reasons why Tara needs all the help she can get.

### Meeting the Challenge

Tara found that a number of mimio's technology features were particularly helpful in engaging her students. Features that allowed "hands on" lessons where students come up to the board to complete the activities – such as finishing a sentence or putting a sequence of steps in their proper order - importing video and audio directly into the mimio notebook, games from a variety of websites with fun activities that students do themselves all proved to be not only engaging, but most importantly, effective.

Tara utilizes many websites that have projectable books, phonics activities, and videos such as [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) , [www.keyskills4u.com](http://www.keyskills4u.com), [www.eduplace.com](http://www.eduplace.com) and [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com). Incorporating content from these sites gets students excited about learning and keeps their attention. When struggling readers are told to read a passage or story independently, they often stare out into space, and do not attend to it. However, when Tara puts a lesson on the mimio using Studio features such as reveal and spotlight, and calls on students to read, they all do it eagerly and perfectly!



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Training was key as Tara sought to make even more use of mimio in the classroom. Tara pursued the mimio Master's online training course including weekly assignments, learning and practicing the toolbox and gallery functions, participating in online discussions and, perhaps most importantly, collaborating with teachers around the country. She learned that preparing interactive lessons in advance gave her more time with her students and improved both her presentation and their comprehension. By using the various libraries, she was able to cut her preparation time as well as provide more engaging lessons. She also likes the convenience of storing her lessons in the Studio Gallery and pulling up what she needs with just a couple of clicks. And, by recording her lessons at the whiteboard, she was able to in effect "clone" herself, playing back the lesson so students could review it while Tara observed them practicing their cursive writing, for example.

#### Outcome

The most obvious and measurable benefit of Tara's use of mimio is the progress her students have made in their reading level. At the beginning of the year the average reading level of her class was a 1.5 (fifth month of first grade). After just 18 weeks of school that had risen to a 2.1 (first month of second grade) - six months of growth in only four months!