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## Schoolchildren with autism get ICT support

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GLOBE Telecom, the Autism Society Philippines (ASP) and the [Department of Education](#) are tapping into Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for the learning and communication of public school children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

To pilot test the use of ICT for children with special needs, Globe and ASP have chosen P. Gomez Elementary School in Sta. Cruz, Manila and P. Villanueva Elementary School in Pasay City.

The schools will receive free one-year Internet connectivity from Globe and a visual-learning software and related training for teachers and parents from ASP.

“Globe Bridging Communities, the corporate social responsibility program of Globe Telecom, takes another major step this year by partnering with ASP for our Internet-in-[Schools program](#),” said Yoly C. Crisanto, Globe Corporate Communications head.

“ASP will be introducing for the first time in the Philippines a visual learning [software](#) that can run on any PC that is Internet ready. Hopefully, we can also implement this project in other public SPED centers and give more children with ASD a chance to improve their education,” she added.

There are currently 231 public SPED centers throughout the country with an alarming 25:1 student-teacher ratio.

With the lack of facilities and special education professionals in public SPED centers, Globe and ASP believe that ICT can help address the problem by allowing easy implementation of differentiated learning across a class of unique learners.

ASP, on the other hand, being a national, non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of persons with ASD acquired a technical grant of two full licenses of VizZle, a visual learning software.

Through VizZle, children with ASD can also use multimedia tools with the help of their parents and makes learning fun since they deliver the visuals, the auditory and the kinesthetic experience to the students.

Meanwhile, Education Undersecretary Yolanda Quijano is hopeful that the program will also be adopted in other [schools](#) across the Philippines.

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