Smart Boards are a wonderful way to focus students' attention in the classroom. Teachers report great success with having students come up and work out problems on the Smart Board in front of the classroom. Because the technology is interesting, children are eager to work with it, and teachers should take advantage of this by having every student come up and work on the board.

REPORTS OF TRAINING RELATED TO SMART BOARD:

1. **You can use your fingertips just like you would with a standard mouse.** Tapping your fingertip on the board once will activate the cursor, and from there you can try other functions.
- To select an icon or open a file, tap your finger on the icon twice in quick succession.
- If you want to right click something, hold your finger down in one spot.
- For dragging and dropping files or icons, hold your finger down on it, then drag it to where you want to drop it.

2. **Use the formatting toolbar to access specialty tools.** The formatting toolbar is visible at the top of your Smartboard and also within Smartboard Notebook on your computer. Each button controls a different function. All you have to do is tap the button on the board with your finger to activate them.
- There are dozens of possible buttons depending on your software, but some are more common than others. Save, Pen, Erase, and Undo/Redo are some of the most popular. Tap each icon to perform the command.

3. **Use the Smartboard pens to write.** The Smartboard pens are stored in a pen tray below the board, just like on a regular whiteboard. Pick one up and hold it up to the board. When a box appears on the screen, that means you're ready to write.
- You can write and draw just like you would with an ordinary pen.
- To change colors, put the pen back in the tray and pick up a different color.
- You can't scroll when you're in writing mode, so be sure the screen is where you want it to be before you pick up the pen.
- To exit writing mode, put the pen back in the tray.
- You can also activate the pen function by tapping the pen button on the toolbar. This will also bring up specialized pen functions, like Draw Shape or Handwriting to Text.

4. **Use the eraser to erase any mistakes.** The pen tray will also have an eraser. You'll use this just like a regular eraser—simply press it against the writing you want to erase and rub it back and forth until it disappears.
- You can also use the eraser to trace a big circle around everything you want to erase. Just tap the middle of the circle with the eraser and watch it disappear!

5. **Keep it interactive and Use colors.** Teachers can make the text and background on the Smart Board any color they like, and they should take advantage of the brain's natural tendencies towards memorization. The brain remembers more efficiently with blue or green backgrounds and white or yellow text. The screen does not have to stay this way, but a teacher can certainly use it during lessons where memorization is important.

6. Add Multimedia Elements to Presentations. Whereas slideshow presentations entirely made up of text can disengage students, ones with multimedia elements can effectively hold their attention by varying content delivery. When applicable, try to include:

- Images
- Graphs
- Pictographs
- Podcast clips
- Sound effects
- Short video lessons
- News, movie and television show clips

It's likely that slideshow presentations already play a part in your lessons, and adding different kinds of media can make them more engaging.

7. Use Videos for Mini-Lessons. You can bolster your lesson plans by using videos as stand-alone overviews for some topics. This easy way to use technology in the classroom adds a multimedia element to your lessons, which can effectively resonate with visual learners. Research has shown that the use of animated videos can positively impact a child's development in several competence areas including memory, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.