



A Collaborative Effort

at Miami Yoder Elementary School
using Hatch® technology solutions

Developing Core Skills and Saving Teachers' Time

Miami Yoder Elementary School

Located about 40 miles east of Colorado Springs, Rush, CO is home to the Miami Yoder school district. Rush is a small rural town with a population of around 600 people. The entire Miami Yoder district educates about 350 students, with most students being bussed in from as far as 45 minutes away. With such a small town population, transportation is necessary for Miami Yoder to fill up their classrooms and is also extremely convenient for far away families who otherwise would not have had time to send their child to preschool.



Tami Harding, who doubles as the preschool director and teacher, has been a Hatch® customer for 25 years and a Miami Yoder employee for 22 years. During Harding's first decade at the school, the only early learning software used in the classroom was Waterford with Pearson. These products had a lot of variety, but the annual subscription prices got too high and led Harding to turn to Hatch. Harding was drawn to the iStartSmart® tablets with HatchSync powered by GOLD®, and used money she had saved from her preschool budget to make the purchase for Miami Yoder.

"HatchSync powered by GOLD® is the best thing ever!" - Tami Harding

Easy Installation and Implementation

After a smooth installation process, teachers at Miami Yoder faced the obstacle of introducing the tablets to the students and incorporating them into day-to-day lesson plans. Not all of the children at Miami Yoder were regularly exposed to technology at home and some of them were not comfortable using tablets or computers. Because of this, teachers had to teach basic technology foundations, such as swiping the screen and navigating the controls, before they could jump into the Hatch activities.



During implementation, teachers discovered that some children had an easier time using the technology effectively when they were accompanied by a teacher. So, they continued to help guide the game play on iStartSmart tablets to keep those children on track, and to gain a deeper understanding of the areas with which the child was struggling. This helped them determine if the child was struggling with the subject matter, or just the technology itself. This extra supervision was not necessary for each child, but this individualized attention really helped the children who were not used to working with technology at home. This extra effort

from the teachers really helped the children who were struggling get the most out of their game play on iStartSmart, and helped set them up for success with classroom technology in the future.

Why Hatch?

HatchSync powered by *GOLD*[®] helps Harding reach her classroom's checkpoint goals for the fall, winter and spring by providing individualized documentation and reports of students' progress in iStartSmart game play. Before, Harding had difficulty generating the recommended three to four pieces of documentation. With HatchSync powered by *GOLD*[®], she had over 96 pieces of documentation in one checkpoint period last year. This automatic syncing helps teachers immensely; it saves them time, gives them a large volume of documentation from which to choose and allows them to spend more time on other things in the classroom.

HatchSync powered by *GOLD*[®] also serves as a great tool for teachers to identify weak spots in a child's progress. When this is the case, it is important that a teacher can recognize the problem and provide timely one-on-one instruction or adjust their lesson plans.

Miami Yoder has done a great job of leveraging this feature of Hatch technology by helping children continue working on tough skills at home through "enrichment backpacks". Harding sends children home each day with at-home activities to do with their parents to reinforce learning. These games and activities revolve around lessons learned in the classroom, and may be tailored differently to each student based on which *GOLD*[®] checkpoints they're struggling with.

Providing Complete, Well-Rounded Instruction

While most HatchSync powered by *GOLD*[®] documents report on math and literary skills, the Hatch WePlaySmart[®] solution is designed to help children build the social-emotional skills they need to succeed in kindergarten.

Just one year after purchasing iStartSmart tablets, Miami Yoder purchased a WePlaySmart table; the only technology solution in the marketplace that focuses on social and emotional development in an early learning environment. The content on the multi-touch table encourages children to focus on concepts of sharing and collaboration, something Harding saw first-hand in her classroom.

During the first few weeks, the children in Harding's classroom were having a hard time with collaborative play. When the children wanted to grab an object on the far side of the screen, they would often walk to the other side of the table to complete the task themselves. However, after they worked together with their classmates on the WePlaySmart table just a few times a week, children soon started to work together in teams. Instead of walking to the other side of the table, they would ask their classmate to pass them the object on the screen, or press the button for them. Now, the children are also taking turns more freely and helping each other complete activities. This added teamwork and collaboration has changed their group dynamic and led to the WePlaySmart table being the favorite among all learning centers.

Learn more about [WePlaySmart](#) and [HatchSync powered by *GOLD*[®]](#).

