# KidSmart Early Learning Program

*Using technology to inspire young learners worldwide*

> *"KidSmart's educational practices are grounded in technology and promote better learning opportunities that help children more easily transition from pre-kindergarten to kindergarten."*
>
> —Monica Jimenez, Minister of Education, Chile



Since its launch 10 years ago, IBM has invested more than $106 million in the KidSmart Early Learning Program. It is now in 60 countries, reaching more than 10 million students and 100,000 teachers.
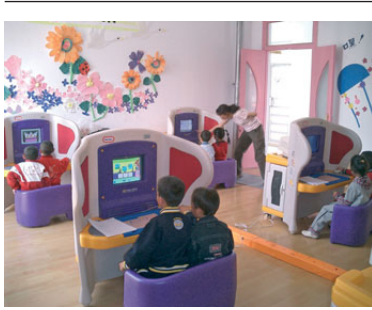
IBM's KidSmart program includes the Young Explorer, a computer housed in brightly colored, kid-friendly Little Tikes™ furniture and equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn and explore concepts in math, science and language. The computer centers can also help children learn important socialization skills such as working together and sharing. Exploration and socialization skills are important to prepare children for future success in school, help level the playing field and ensure all children have access to educational tools.

## Access where it's most needed

From remote areas to underprivileged areas of towns and cities around the world, the IBM KidSmart program is bringing together technology and the world's youngest students. "I find IBM's partnerships truly multinational. IBM has the potential to be a catalyst for the cross-pollination of simple and sustainable ideas, for the potential realization of communities in different countries," Dr. Sonali Nag of The Promise Foundation in India.

KidSmart Early Learning Center units are targeted to areas where children have limited, if any, access to computers at home.

*"The support of IBM for innovation in learning and teaching is greatly appreciated by the Ministry of Education."*

—Dr. Khaled Toukan, Minister of Education, Jordan



In China, for example—where the KidSmart program has now reached more than 110 cities including the provincial capitals and second and third tier cities and counties—IBM has been awarded the inaugural Education Sponsorship Special Contribution Award due in great part to the successful implementation of the program.

To expand the benefits of KidSmart beyond grant sites, IBM created the Web site, **kidsmartearlylearning.org,** in collaboration with the Center for Children and Technology, Bank Street College of Education and the United Way. The Web site, available in eight languages, helps parents guide their children's use of technology and supports preschool teachers in using technology effectively in their classrooms.

### An Independent Success
IBM's KidSmart Early Learning program, designed for children ages 3 - 7, is achieving dramatic results with the world's youngest students, according to independent studies. Starting with an initial evaluation by Bank Street College of Education, and confirmed by additional international studies, conclusions show that the program leads to substantial improvements in teaching and learning and to significant positive outcomes for children and teachers in disadvantaged communities, and that teachers participating in the KidSmart program are more confident in their approach to using computers in their classrooms. Read the program's most recent evaluations at **ibm.com/ibmgives/grant/education/programs/ kidsmart.shtml**

### For More Information
For more information on KidSmart Early Learning Program, visit: **ibm.com/ibm/ibmgives** or call 914-499-1900.