



IEP Resource Guide

5 Simple Steps to Integrate Virtual Reality into Special Education

**Practice Virtually.
Grow in Real Life.**

Developed by Catherine Witcher, M.Ed
Master IEP Coach®, Founder

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Meet floreo

Learn and grow, from anywhere.

Floreo was founded from a personal place when its founder, Vijay Ravindran, saw his child's first experience with virtual reality lead to exciting engagement and new milestones. That first experience led to a vision of creating a new medium for teaching and therapy, one where learning in the virtual world leads to real world success.

Today, Floreo's immersive experiences provide thousands of people and practitioners with fun and engaging ways to practice and develop important skills that are difficult to learn and teach in "real life."



It's time to remove the boundaries of what therapy can be and where it can be done.

What is Floreo?

Floreo uses virtual reality to teach social, communication, behavioral, and life skills to neurodiverse individuals and others who can benefit from practicing these skills. Our immersive VR experiences are based on established, science-backed techniques and are designed to be used in therapy, educational, or family settings.

Meet Catherine

I'm so excited you're here...

Before we start exploring the exciting idea of reaching IEP goals with virtual reality, let's acknowledge that we as parents and educators need to find new and innovative ways to build better IEPs, together.

The demands of our school system and our world keep increasing. It feels almost impossible to keep up. However, one of the reasons many children, parents, and educators are struggling is that we keep trying to do things the "old way".



Catherine Whitcher, M.Ed is the founder of Master IEP Coach®, host of the Special Education Inner Circle podcast, and nationwide special education speaker and consultant helping families and schools collaboratively build IEPs that work in the real world.

That's exactly why I wanted to share with you 5 ways that we can level up our efforts toward reaching IEP goals using virtual reality. This guide is not about doing more. It's about doing things differently.

The power of using the right technology inside of our homes and classrooms is a game-changer. But, jumping from tech tool to tech tool doesn't work.

In the following guide, I'm going to walk you through 5 easy strategies that use one tech tool, Floreo. Even if you've never used virtual reality before or you're not even sure what it is... this guide is for you!

*With Hope &
Determination Always,
Catherine*

VIRTUAL REALITY STRATEGY #1

Building Independence

Learning new skills can be scary and feel overwhelming. Especially if a child has failed at learning a skill over and over again.

The research is clear that learning through play is extremely effective and play through virtual reality is taking this to a whole new level.

With adult guidance, yet the feeling of pure independence, children can practice much needed skills like crossing the street or having an engaging conversation at lunch, over and over. The beauty of VR lies in repetition without the fear of failure.



Opportunities

- ✓ Builds decision making confidence
- ✓ Easy to adjust level of difficulty
- ✓ Simple set up for multiple adults to learn implementation

Floreo's Commitment to Engagement

Each child has their own strengths and unique ways of learning. Floreo offers individualized and engaging opportunities that enable Learners to improve and grow.

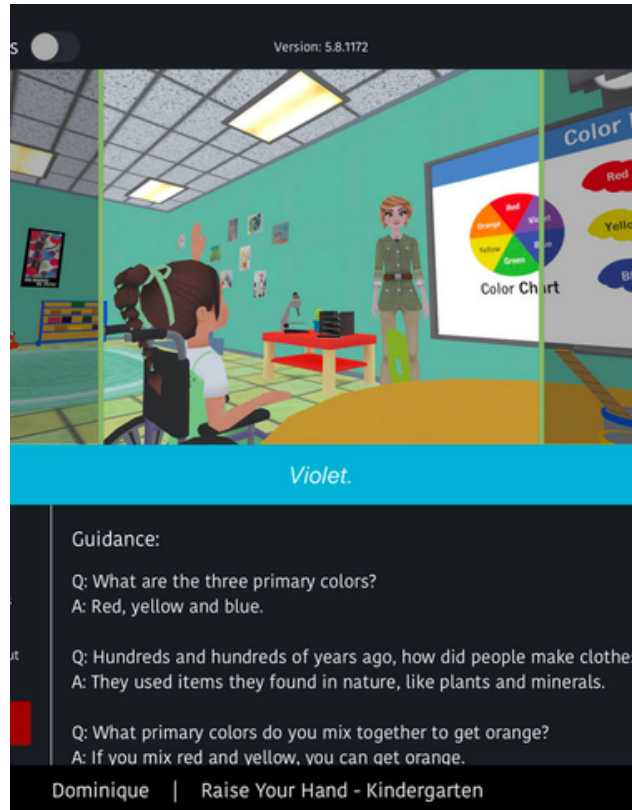
VIRTUAL REALITY STRATEGY # 2

Data-Driven Decisions

Gone are the days when we need to wait 12 weeks to tally up data and decide if teaching strategies and tools are effective.

Implementing virtual reality and using real-time data collection inside of Floreo allows parents and teachers to make smart decisions, FAST.

IDEA law highlights the need for timely interventions and progress monitoring. With VR, we're easily stepping into the reality of individualized lessons being dynamic and adaptable, without needing hours and hours of teachers and parents differentiating work manually.



Opportunities

- ✓ Review current IEP goals and integrate VR
- ✓ Track data in real-time and adjust quickly
- ✓ Lower frustrations and increase success with individualized instruction

Floreo's Dedication to Equity

Everyone deserves to have an opportunity to thrive. We enable neurodiverse individuals in remote and underserved communities to have access to technology that will help them learn and grow.

VIRTUAL REALITY STRATEGY #3

Home Connection

Getting the same results in multiple environments can be tough.

It can be extremely frustrating when parents and teachers see different outcomes and milestones at home and school.

Implementing technology, such as Floreo, can take away the guesswork of prompting and desired outcomes by providing lessons that can be replicated anywhere.

Parents and teachers can easily give feedback to each other confidently about what's working and not working.



Opportunities

- ✓ Parents and caregivers can implement at home
- ✓ Create consistency between environments
- ✓ Eliminate miscommunication over desired activity outcomes

Floreo's Vision of Empowerment

We aim to make learning appealing and exciting. We make developing important skills more engaging and a confidence-building experience for every Learner.

VIRTUAL REALITY STRATEGY #4

Social Skills

Most people are unpredictable, right? Children are definitely unpredictable!

Practicing social skills is challenging because we must rely on other humans to act how we need them to act to teach what we want to teach. Unless we're using virtual reality!

And here's the BEST part about using VR to help with social skills. It's a safe space. No judgment, no fear of making mistakes. Just valuable learning experiences that align seamlessly with IEPs and IDEA's focus on individualized, progress-driven education.



Opportunities

- ✓ Practice every day situations - on repeat
- ✓ Virtually transport a child to a new environment
- ✓ Provide a safe space with no judgement!

Floreo Inside Your IEP Goals

Did you know you could join a growing number of schools and educators who are creating immersive learning programs that support individualized methods, student progress, and growth for all Learners... keep reading to find out how!

VIRTUAL REALITY STRATEGY #5

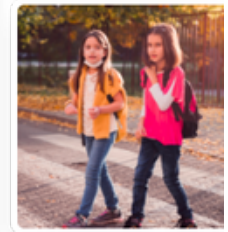
Long Term Consistency

Finding tools that grow with a child not just day to day, but year to year has been a challenge in Special Education.




Virtual reality takes the guesswork out of finding a tool that works with a child at every stage of learning!

Whether a child is learning to cross the street safely at age 8 or 18, VR is ready to meet a child where they are at and provide appropriate prompts to help them reach their goal.

[See the library of lessons to help all Learners of all ages grow at this link.](#)



Opportunities

-  Use VR at all age and grade levels
-  Implement to support transition planning goals
-  Provide long term data and progress reporting

More Fun, More Effective Skill -Building

Floreo's enriching experiences build confidence and teach real world skills. Whether in the classroom or learning remotely, immersive environments allow for the practice of important skills in ways that are fun, safe, and easily repeatable.



Bonus

**Scan to listen to the founder of Floreo on the
Special Education Inner Circle podcast!**



VIRTUAL REALITY INSIDE THE IEP



As parents and teachers, you are investing your time, money, and heart into writing the best IEPs possible for your child and/or students.

Having virtual reality experiences explicitly written into an IEP can provide many benefits, including - year-to-year consistency for the child and having the district more easily fund individualized technology as part of providing an appropriate education.

Did you know virtual reality can be considered Assistive Technology?

Every IEP has a box that can be checked for Assistive Technology (AT). If your child or student needs technology for access to the curriculum or to practice IEP skills, checking this box "YES" and defining tech tools as part of the AT plan is necessary.

Of course, you can always have virtual reality technology added to several other sections of the IEP, too.

The most important thing is to make sure... if technology is critical for a child's success, it is clearly written in the IEP.

But, even if virtual reality or tech tools are not written into an IEP (yet!), you can ask your school district to support your child or students through Floreo programs.

It's time to stop writing IEPs for the 1980s and focus on writing IEPs that are highly focused on where our world is now and where it's going.

-Catherine Whitcher, M.Ed

EXAMPLE REQUEST LETTER FROM PARENT

Dear Principal/Special Education Director,

As a parent of a child attending [School Name], I appreciate the hard work of the special education department to support the diverse needs of students. I'm writing to request your consideration of adding Floreo's virtual reality (VR) therapy to further assist students like my child.

Floreo uses immersive VR technology to provide customized therapy targeting social-emotional, cognitive, and motor skills. The multisensory VR scenarios engage students in ways that traditional therapy cannot. My child struggles with [specify needs - attention, anxiety, coordination etc], and I am confident VR therapy can significantly improve [his/her] ability to self-regulate and practice crucial skills that have been identified as needs by the IEP team.

Specifically, VR supports within their school day may help my child:

- Improve focus and attention span through motivating and interactive scenarios
- Develop communication and social skills through roleplay practice
- Reduce anxiety and build emotional coping strategies
- Enhance motor skills and coordination in a safe virtual environment

Additionally, VR provides quantitative data to track progress and align with IEP goals.

I understand the constraints with technology budgets. However, an investment in Floreo VR technology is an investment in the future success of students like my child. Virtual reality allows for therapy customization that is impossible in traditional settings.

I hope we can collaborate to make this innovative therapy option accessible at [School Name]. I'm willing to discuss creative funding solutions or engage in grassroots fundraising efforts. VR therapy can be game-changing for students, and I believe Floreo is the right partner for our school.

Please let me know if I can provide any other information on Floreo's VR platform. I look forward to your response on this option to further support my child's IEP, an inclusive environment, and preparation for further education, employment, and independent living.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

EXAMPLE REQUEST LETTER FROM TEACHER

Dear Principal/Special Education Director,

As a special education teacher at [School Name], I strive to provide my students with innovative resources that meet their unique needs. After extensive research, I am confident Floreo's virtual reality (VR) program could be truly transformative for the students in my classroom. I'm writing to request your support in acquiring this program in our classroom.

Floreo uses research-based VR technology to create customized real-world experiences addressing social-emotional, behavioral, and cognitive skills. Their immersive method engages students in ways I cannot recreate with traditional tools. Many of my students face challenges with [specify - attention, anxiety, motor delays], and VR provides multisensory experiences targeting these exact needs.

Specifically, Floreo's VR therapy can help my students:

- Improve focus and memory through interactive cognitive exercises
- Practice critical social and communication skills in realistic scenarios
- Reduce anxiety and build emotional regulation strategies
- Develop motor skills and coordination in a safe virtual environment

Additionally, Floreo provides data tracking aligned with IEP goals. This will allow me to monitor student progress and adjust lessons in real time.

I understand the budget limitations we face. However, investing in Floreo VR therapy means investing in the future independence and success of our students. Virtual reality allows for a level of customization impossible in a physical classroom. As an educator, I want to leverage innovative solutions to help each student thrive as required through their IEP.

I am willing to pursue professional development to learn how to best facilitate Floreo VR therapy. I'm also happy to discuss creative funding solutions or assist in writing grants. I firmly believe introducing VR therapy will significantly empower our students and create a more inclusive environment for all Learners.

Please let me know if I can provide any other information on Floreo's options for school programs and results. I look forward to discussing this further and working together to bring Floreo to [School Name].

Sincerely,
[Your Name] [Title]

RESOURCES



Explore all of Floreo for home and school. See what's possible!

See what parents and teachers are saying about Floreo.



[LEARN MORE](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



Find out more about Master IEP Coach® programs for parents and teachers.

Reach out directly to Catherine to ask your IEP questions!



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