



Developing 21st Century Skills Using Technology Integration in the Early Childhood Classroom

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Abstract

Developing 21st century skills are essential in today's ever-changing world. This presentation will explore how educators can integrate the use of technology in a variety of subject areas including mathematics, science, and language arts. We will identify various ways that students can think critically, collaborate with others, communicate effectively, and showcase their creativity. We will develop and implement classroom strategies that encourage students to be lifelong learners while preparing them for a lifetime of success..

When examining the classroom setting, we often forget that students will someday be out of our classrooms and into the real world. This poses a question to educators: how are we going to prepare students for this ever-changing world? Students learn a variety of content every day, but are they really prepared for the real-world? Utilizing technology integration in the classroom can help promote and encourage 21st century skills. These skills include leadership, responsibility, creativity, and innovation. These skills are essential for students to become productive citizens in society, and it all starts in the classroom.

When examining how we teach mathematics, we can utilize FlipGrid. FlipGrid is an app that allows students to record themselves and interact with other classmates. Students can record themselves solving a math problem and share it with

their peers. This app also allows students to make and record comments about other classmates' posts. While utilizing this app during mathematics, students are becoming problem-solvers. They are taking ownership of their learning. This also makes them enjoy solving mathematical problems more. Teaching English Language Arts can be challenging. Every student learns in a variety of ways. When planning a reading comprehension lesson that focuses on vocabulary, students can use the Flocabulary website. This website displays vocabulary words in a creative manner. Students can then turn around and create their own Flocabulary videos on the words that they are currently learning. This promotes creativity because students are coming up with and constructing their own connections with the vocabulary words. Learning to construct their own connections is crucial in this world because it allows students to take

ownership of their learning. It also encourages students to become aware of what works and what does not work for them in the classroom.

Science is also a subject where students can develop 21st Century Skills. Educators can utilize Tynker to teach students how to code. Tynker is a website that empowers children to become creators. For example, “Tynker fuels learning across 87,000 schools and powers the imagination of 60 million kids worldwide” (Tynker). Tynker provides a variety of tools and outlets for students to develop coding skills. Coding teaches and promotes many 21st century skills. This includes developing a growth mindset. A growth mindset is the “mindset of practical optimism.” In the Teach Thought article, *How to Cultivate a Growth Mindset in Your Classroom*, they describe this concept, “She describes a growth mindset as believing that your basic qualities are things you can cultivate through your efforts” (Wilson and Conyers). A growth mindset is so important, especially in today’s society. If a student develops a growth mindset early on in life, they will be able to handle life’s challenges more

effectively and efficiently. Coding also encourages leadership. The Tynker website describes the benefits: “Using a coding platform like Tynker is particularly powerful because it requires kids to use their technical skills to build the program, as well as their artistic and storytelling skills to design a compelling program” (Tynker). Getting female students involved in coding can spark an interest in science, and potentially a career in the field as well. The benefits that coding provides students is lifelong.

As discussed, technology integration can greatly impact our students by allowing them to develop 21st century skills. As educators, it is imperative for us to go out and learn about these resources. Most importantly, we need to use these resources. These technology resources and skills impact our students for a lifetime. These activities find students’ passions, develop their leadership abilities, and put problems in their hands to solve using innovation. The future of this world is in our classroom, and we must prepare them for this ever-changing world!

References

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- Picture Obtained From: www.P21.org/Framework

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