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RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE READING AND LISTENING SKILLS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPLDs.

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Abstract

Educators have always held the key to students' success, they always search for useful strategies to teach effectively in order to encourage the independence of learning for students with specific learning difficulties but also for those with normal intelligence.

Information technology as a field of education has opened new channels and opportunities to enhance teaching and educational methods. Multimedia Technology has offered us the use of CDs, DVDs or videos applied in the classroom however multimedia can offer the use of more than one medium of expression or communication such as text, audio, images, animations, video and interactive content and also an independent, individual, pair and group work.

In this way, while using it students create an active and effective learning process while measuring and developing their critical reading and listening skills in an independent and creative way.

This paper aims to explain how technology can help students read single words, read reports and books, it helps those who have difficulties with written work, those that it takes longer to do a written work, uses poor spelling, those who have difficulties in reading their own writing and at the same time it encourages the listening and also improves listening skills. These way the use of technology, prepares students with SpLDs make a better decision about their education and create a Metacognition approach and they are able to take control of their thinking and learning activities and become effective learners knowing that multimedia can improve critical thinking starting from the multimedia material where you can see and read what you listen and this can integrate students with SpLDs move forward.

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Introduction:-

Education over the years has brought a great change and together with it brought new demands in the educational system. Teachers continually try to implement best instructional objectives and strategies, practical tech tools to work with diverse groups particularly with students with specific learning difficulties for example dyslexia whose previous experiences in reading has been frustrating.

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The use of technology in the class contributes toward critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and in addition it reinforces the independent learning for every student.

In this context, the use of technology supplies teachers with tools that encourage collaboration between the teacher and students, allow teachers to manage lessons as planned. It also gives us an opportunity to help students develop language skills through listening, speaking, reading, and writing while using visual tools.

When Technology is used in inclusive education, students with SpLDs develop their receptive and expression skills and many of the learning difficulties experienced when reading, writing, spelling, learning vocabulary etc become a smaller problem to overcome.

To overcome these challenges, there are different speech supported software and specific programs to support any students skills. Therefore, here are some of the technology resource to teach and include student with SpLDs.

ED Puzzle -

Enable self-paced learning with interactive lessons and it is compatible with most devices so your students can keep learning anywhere. Through this resource you will be able to follow up if your students are watching your videos, how many times they have watched it and if there are understanding the content.

Kahoot!-

Is a game-based learning platform used in classrooms, offices and social settings.

Dicover Ed –

As another technology resource is a platform that leads with a content, engage with digital and helps teaches differentiate and improve achievement with easy uses tools and other resources.

Story Birds –

Is a visual storytelling platform for everyone. It is a platform for writers, readers, and artists of all ages.

Puppet Pals –

Through this platform you can create your own show with animation and audio in real time. You just have to pick up the actors and drop them on the stage and tap record. This application is as fun as your own creativity. You can combine different characters as you fell like.

Explain Everything –

Is a platform that enables students to become visual communicators. Here through interactive learning you can create collaborative learning experiences where we and our students can share our thoughts and ideas in real-time.

Google Classroom-

Classroom helps students organize their work and post to their teachers and classmates.

Smart Notebook –

It is a platform that offers implementation services, professional development and community resources to support students needs.

Starfall -

Is another platform that teaches students to read with phonics, and this platform has been a great source for over a decade.

In conclusion we can say the use of technology in inclusive education is the biggest change in teaching that has been ever seen. Different platforms can help them enhance reading and listening skills in their own pace, can give a meaningful improvement in developing students with SpLDSs in reading, writing listening and speaking which helps them grow academically and as a result they will be able to overcome other class challenges, such as critical thinking, slow-note taking, poor handwriting, difficulties in learning etc.

Statement of the problem

The problem of this research is to weight the potential benefits of technology in inclusive education against its risks and consequences. This paper brings us a discussion between the power of technology which allows to experiment pedagogy and better engage students in the classroom versus technology in the classroom can be distracting and even encourage cheating.

Research Hypothesis

Based on the statement of the problem, the research hypothesis are stated as below.

1. The use of technology help in enhancing education and making learning more fun and effective
2. Technology in education can open doors to new experiences and help ensure full participation
3. With the use of technology in inclusive education, students have instant access to fresh information that can motivate their learning experiences.

Literature review

Together with technology people has advance in many ways. In schools or in the department of education around the world, a trend toward integrating technology into the education process is daily on the rise. We can freely say that it has also always been but with the proliferation of Internet access in school buildings and the presence of mobile computing devices, educators are considering new ways they can include these tools into their classroom instruction.

In Kosova the field of educational technology is still in its momentum. As a result, professional development and training practices are still in process. Due to lack of different technology assets in the class, in many schools, teachers bring their own laptops and projector or better say they bring their own technology integration to experiment different applications with their students. While students follow up what is being done in the class, this can be considered as a systematic approach on technology integration in the classroom which can provide both, effectively and efficiently services.

Advantage of technology use in the class –

In order to implement something new in education, first of all we need to see if there is any relative possible advantage of its use in this case technology. Secondly, we need to identify students' specific needs in order to advance them to meet the learning outcome expectations. Thirdly we need to perform a needs-based assessment of the inclusive classroom, and then seek for the right tool to meet that specific need. Thirdly we need to perform a needs-based assessment of the inclusive classroom, and then seek for the right tool to meet that specific need. a needs-based assessment of the inclusive classroom, and then seek for the right tool to meet that specific need.

Set objectives goals and assessments –

Once the specific learning difficulties are identified, with the right technology tool, gives us the opportunity to meet and practice the need and this will lead us to reach the objective goals and the right assessment. Before everything start some of the questions that we need to set before us are: 1) how can students use it? 2) do students have time to complete the required task? 3) through what proficiency, the task will be ready and how are they going to demonstrated? For instance, after three weeks of using a certain alphabetic software, students will be able to state at least three words from each alphabet letter. The purpose of this sample is to provide us with a means of assessing efficacy of the technology integration.

Sample of instructional strategies –

When we get ready to integrate a new technology tool in the class, we also have to see if students are ready physically and do they have the needed technology tools? If students don't have the needed equipments, this will assist in creating work in groups and follow the activity instruction. We have to have in mind that we need to touch base slowly as we approach something new to our students.

Analyze results–

In order to use technology in the class, teachers should continually look how to reach the objectives goals and see what it worked and did not work. If we do not analyze the results, there is no space for improvement. Although this is the only step occurring after a given technology is introduced, it is still essential to the overall integration plan. At the same time, teachers at this continue to work on various assessment and come to aim conclusion to see what work and doesn't work. In order for technology use to take place as an effective tool, we have to revise the previous steps

and continually improve. We also can continue without revision but in order to analyse results we need to repeat the steps so we don't miss opportunities to practice more and ensure the quality.

Listening Skills

1. Method
2. Results
3. Conclusion
4. References

Why should we use technology in the comprehensive classroom?

Today, children are growing up with technology, but technology in the classroom has nothing to do with the use of classroom digital devices as they use it independently at home, it is linked to everything that facilitates an interaction between the teacher and the student.

Classroom engagement is at a low level by students, ranging from many factors and pedagogues are challenged every day, what they can do for countless deviations that are caused by phones, tablets, etc.

Technology can be seen as an obstacle but also as a multiple solution to improve academic growth.

Access to technology in education provides new learning opportunities for all learners but children with learning difficulties can benefit if the guidelines are adequate together with the time of the task being performed.

According to David Goodrum, director of academic technology and information service at Oregon State University at the Campus of Technology, a 21st century view of student success requires that students be not only consumers but also use it to be more creative to demonstrate creative visual ideas etc.

Applying technology has certainly eased life nowadays. Today's technology has become part of the various fields and now it occupies its place and in the sphere of education. Part of the public feels that technology is having a negative impact on the part of education, especially children, as they are more technology-intensive than the school, but that does not mean that technology is an enemy of education, rather it is too always useful if implemented to the right extent. Today it uses classroom or timetable management software, curriculum, and wireless infrastructure in various educational institutions.

But technology is not so simple to apply in the classroom and during this process there are various problems. Powerful companies have invested in technology penetration in schools, especially in tablet use by students. In addition to the tablet device, this also requires a large amount of student training and software installation.

And finally, it is worth saying that every one of us feels helpless to stop the burst of technology. It is becoming more and more part of our lives turning into an important element of it. Technology is indispensable everywhere, at work, at home, and especially at school, but perhaps the hardest part remains the training.

The pros:

The development of information technology and communication tools is one of the aspects of the globalization process, which has made great strides in advancing this process. Technology can help the learning process but also can distract it. Students have direct access to what they need to know. But there are also some cons that we have to consider.

The cons

How many disadvantages technology offers, we already know therefore we need to have rules and regulation when we apply it in the inclusive classroom. We have to be careful that our students do not avoid reading from books as online services usually offers short articles regarding a specific subject while in the book you have the whole idea of it.

According to this statement we have to create a structure that respect the timing to work on specific projects always expecting from them to complete the tasks in a certain time and this will make them respect the boundaries.

Another cons of technology use is that it can disconnect students from social or live interactions but there is also a solution for it too. We have to create assignments that students interact with one another which means they work in groups in order to complete the assignments.

Technology in the classroom: The final verdict

It's clear that the advantages of technology use are over the disadvantages of its use, but one thing we have to consider that when we use technology in the class we have to build on relation between a teacher and students because on this bound the education start. For kids today, technology is not a novelty. She is present in every sphere of their lives, so use is not a challenge but a skill that is very natural to them.

Recently in Kosova, technology applications with a video projectors and computers, mobile etc. have been introduced into the education system partially, teaching resources have changed considerably yet the worst part remains training.

To understand the importance of technology in the teaching process, we can have hundreds of concepts but it is very important to see it as an advantage to engage every single student in learning so no one is left behind, that should remain the main goal.

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