

Assignment 3 – Technology Implementation Plan for Primary School Students in English

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EDTC 815: Advanced Administration and Supervision of Technology

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November 12, 2023

Introduction

In the field of education, technology has become a daily tool that is used by teachers to engage students, and by students to discover unique content through different modes of tech tools. As a leader in technology, I have been tasked by the school administration at a local private school in Jordan, one that relies heavily on technology to enhance students' learning, to help improve academic achievement in English, which is lacking in the primary school (G1-5). The school should use the potential of technology to address their current academic standing in English, as per the results of the most recent international standardized testing scores. This not only presents an opportunity to revolutionize the educational landscape but also serves as a testament to the important role that technology plays in shaping the future of learning in primary school students. In this technology plan, I research the technologies, and methodologies that can be leveraged to boost English language proficiency and cultivate academic excellence among Primary students in English, with a particular focus on two sites that have proven to enhance the literacy levels of Primary students in English; Raz-Kids and IXL.

Raz-Kids

Raz-Kids is a valuable tool in primary schools, playing a crucial role in fostering a love for reading, enhancing literacy skills, and offering individualized reading support to young students. Standardized test results have brought to light a notable cause for concern in literacy and reading comprehension skills among primary school students, highlighting the need for effective interventions to address this challenge. To bridge this gap, the English department is encouraged to utilize Raz-Kids by customizing reading levels to meet the unique needs of each student, assigning independent reading practice that empowers students to engage with the platform, and regularly monitor student progress using comprehension quiz scores. In addition to in-class use, Raz-Kids can also be employed for homework assignments, promoting a consistent reading routine that extends beyond school hours. This also provides an opportunity for parents to be more actively involved in their child's learning.

For the successful implementation of Raz-Kids, the school administration plays a pivotal role. They can provide comprehensive training and manuals for parents, ensuring that the support and reinforcement of reading skills continue at home. Moreover, facilitating regular professional development sessions for teachers is essential. These sessions should encompass a range of topics, including familiarizing educators with new features of Raz-Kids, teaching them how to effectively utilize data to enhance classroom instruction and student learning, and promoting differentiation among students. In terms of time allocation, teachers are encouraged to incorporate Raz-Kids into their weekly classroom activities and homework assignments, allowing students to engage with the platform consistently.

The involvement of various stakeholders is vital for the successful implementation of Raz-Kids, including teachers, parents, and school administrators. To ensure access to Raz-Kids, the school administration may consider investing in an annual subscription, securing the necessary resources for this valuable tool.

The measurement of success when using Raz-Kids in a primary school setting involves assessing improved reading levels, comprehension quiz scores, and enhanced reading fluency. These indicators demonstrate the program's effectiveness in increasing students' literacy and reading comprehension skills. Furthermore, Raz-Kids' diverse language proficiency levels make it a valuable resource for supporting English language learners (ELL) and students with special needs. It effectively assists learners in developing their English language skills, catering to the unique requirements of a wide range of students in the primary school environment.

The Impact of Raz-Kids

An independent study conducted by McREL International investigated the impact of Raz-Plus on the reading skills and motivation of K–5 students, utilizing a rigorous randomized controlled trial. This research, meeting strong evidence standards under ESSA, revealed that students whose teachers employed Raz-Plus showed significantly higher levels of reading achievement and greater interest in both academic and recreational reading when compared to students whose teachers did not use Raz-Plus. The effect sizes were notably positive, with a 0.14 effect on reading achievement, 0.63 on interest in academic reading, and 0.57 on interest in recreational reading. The study involved 662 students from rural schools in the Southeastern United States, predominantly serving low-income and minority populations, and demonstrated the program's beneficial impact when used three to five times per week for 60-90 minutes over 13 weeks, as measured by the STAR assessment for reading achievement and the Elementary Reading Attitude Survey (ERAS) for interest in reading (Ho, 2018) and (U.S. Department of Education, 2016).

The presented report clearly demonstrates that Raz-Kids has the potential to serve as an effective intervention strategy for elevating the standardized test scores of students in a private international school located in Jordan. With a commitment to consistency, reinforcement, and active support from all stakeholders, its success becomes evident.

Technology	Summary	Need	English Department	School Administration	Professional Development Needs	Time People Money	Measurements of success	Diverse learners: ELL/ students with special needs
<p>Raz-Kids</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Works on:</p> <p>Windows PC, Apple Mac, Chromebooks And iPads</p>	<p>Raz-Kids is a valuable tool in primary schools used to foster a love for reading, improve literacy skills, and provide individualized reading support for young students.</p>	<p>The standardized test results have revealed a deficiency in literacy and a limited grasp of reading comprehension skills.</p>	<p>English teachers should use Raz- Kids by :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customizing Reading Levels 2. Assigning Independent Reading Practice 3. Monitoring using and reading scores 4. Using it for homework assignments 	<p>The School administration can support by providing manuals and training for parents, to ensure that they are reinforcing what is done in school, at home.</p>	<p>Teachers are to be engaged in professional development once a month to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New features of Raz-Kids • How to use data to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom • Differentiation amongst students 	<p>Time: Teachers should use Raz-Kids once a week in classroom and for homework</p> <hr/> <p>People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Parents • School Admin <hr/> <p>Money: School administration to invest in annual payment of Raz-kids subscription</p>	<p>Success when using Raz-Kids in primary school is measured through improved reading levels, comprehension quiz scores, and enhanced reading fluency, indicating the program's effectiveness in increasing students' literacy and reading comprehension skills.</p>	<p>Raz-Kids' varied language proficiency levels make it a valuable resource for supporting English language learners, assisting them in developing their English language skills effectively.</p>

IXL

IXL is an online educational platform designed to cater to diverse student needs, offering personalized learning resources from pre-K to high school, with practice exercises and immediate feedback. The standardized tests have highlighted a need for improvement in grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills. To address these shortcomings, IXL provides a variety of interactive exercises and practice activities, promoting structured learning to enhance English proficiency. English teachers are encouraged to incorporate IXL into their teaching practices, offering students an effective resource for skill improvement through interactive exercises and personalized feedback.

The school administration can support this effort by providing manuals and training for parents to reinforce at-home learning, creating a seamless connection between school and home environments. Furthermore, professional development for teachers is essential, ensuring they can effectively integrate IXL into their instructional strategies, monitor student progress, and adapt teaching methods based on data-driven information. In terms of resource allocation, it is recommended that teachers use IXL once a week in the classroom and for homework. Key stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and school administrators, play vital roles in the successful implementation of IXL. For financial support, the school administration should consider investing in an annual IXL subscription. The measurement of success with IXL includes enhanced performance in English assessments, improved language proficiency, increased student engagement, and valuable feedback from educators, students, and parents.

IXL accommodates diverse learners, including English Language Learners (ELL) and students with special needs, by offering various language proficiency levels and customizable content, ensuring that each student can access materials aligned with their unique abilities and learning requirements.

Technology	Summary	Need	English Department	School Administration	Professional Development Needs	Time People Money	Measurements of success	Diverse learners: ELL/ students with special needs
IXL Link Works on: Windows PC, Apple Mac, Chromebooks And iPads	IXL is an online educational platform offering personalized learning resources across various subjects, serving students from pre-K to high school with practice exercises and real-time feedback.	<p>The standardized test results have revealed a deficiency in grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing.</p> <p>IXL offers a range of interactive exercises and practice activities to improve grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills, providing students with a structured and effective means to enhance their English proficiency.</p>	<p>English teachers should use IXL by:</p> <p>Incorporating it into their teaching practices to provide students with a valuable resource for improving grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills through interactive exercises and personalized feedback.</p>	<p>The School administration can support by providing manuals and training for parents, to ensure that they are reinforcing what is done in school, at home.</p>	<p>The school should offer teachers professional development that includes training on how to effectively integrate IXL into their teaching strategies, utilize the platform's features to monitor student progress, and adapt instruction based on IXL's data-driven insights, ensuring optimal use of the resource to enhance student learning.</p>	<p>Time: Teachers should use IXL once a week in classroom and for homework</p> <hr/> <p>People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Parents • School Admin <hr/> <p>Money: School administration to invest in annual payment of IXL subscription</p>	<p>The measurement of success with IXL in the classroom includes improved English assessments, increased language proficiency, higher student engagement, and feedback from teachers, students, and parents.</p>	<p>IXL offers a range of language proficiency levels and customizable content, ensuring that students can access appropriate materials tailored to their individual abilities and learning requirements.</p>

The Impact of IXL

The study, conducted in Mississippi, assessed the impact of IXL, a comprehensive Pre-K through 12 learning solution, on early literacy achievement. Using a quasi-experimental design, the study compared the performance of Pre-K cohorts using IXL (treatment group) and those not using IXL (comparison group) on the Star Early Literacy assessment, accounting for performance and demographic factors. The results indicated that Pre-K cohorts using IXL ELA outperformed non-IXL cohorts, with a significant positive effect on Star scale scores, resulting in a 33-point increase and a substantial effect size of 0.56. The findings underscore the effectiveness of IXL in enhancing early literacy, with implications for future academic growth, particularly in Pre-K education.

Conclusion

In summary, the goal is to increase English proficiency scores within this private Primary school in Jordan. Achieving this objective requires the integration of technology-based resources like IXL and Raz-Kids, both in the classroom and at home, to reinforce English language skills. These two platforms offer a synergistic approach, addressing various elements such as literacy, reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and inference reading. By embracing a routine of consistency, practice, and support, it is expected that students' standardized test results will increase.

References:

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