

September 4, 2024

Dear Administrators,

As you are aware, pre-kindergarten programs currently lack technological resources. Integrating technology could significantly enhance the student's educational experience. Not only will technology enhance education by improving academic performance, but it will also engage and captivate students more effectively, leading to increased attention and participation rates.

First and foremost, since students are already accustomed to using technology at home, it is crucial to integrate technology into the classroom as well to keep pace. While a three-year-old may instinctively navigate to YouTube on a tablet, this limited exposure does not equip them with foundational technological skills. Introducing iPads in the classroom at an early age effectively teaches essential skills and fosters technological literacy among young learners. Which at the end of the day is important because in our district once the students get to kindergarten they start completing tests online. By embracing iPads in our pre-kindergarten programs, we can cultivate a generation of learners who are not only technologically literate but also confident in navigating the digital world. Our goal is to equip every child with the skills and familiarity they need to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven society.

Technology can also provide valuable support to students with special needs, offering tailored resources and adaptive tools that enhance their learning experiences and accommodate their individual requirements. For instance, I recently learned that students with dyslexia or ADHD can benefit from a browser extension called Postlight Reader. This tool eliminates ads and distractions, leaving only the text on the website, which can significantly enhance focus and readability(*Postlight Reader*, n.d). While the browser extension might seem advanced for the age group, the students can still highly benefit from it. Young children are easily distracted, and using this tool could help them concentrate more effectively on the learning content by minimizing external interruptions.

In alignment with the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines, incorporating intentional technology into early childhood education enhances learning by promoting engagement and essential skills. Utilizing interactive apps and educational tools allows teachers to support literacy and numeracy while fostering problem-solving and collaboration. For instance, integrating iPads for storytelling or interactive games can effectively captivate young learners and enrich their educational experience. Websites such as EPIC offer "read-to-me" books, which can further support the development of reading skills for students. These resources provide auditory assistance while students follow along with the text, enhancing both their literacy and comprehension abilities (Epic! Creations Inc., n.d).

I urge you to consider the following points to enhance our pre-kindergarten program through technology integration. First, conduct a needs assessment to identify technological programs that can be implemented in our pre-kindergarten classrooms through the use of iPads. Second, provide training for teachers on how to effectively integrate technology into their

curriculum, ensuring they are equipped to use these tools to their fullest potential. Lastly, launch a pilot program that incorporates technology in a select number of classrooms, allowing us to gather data on its impact on student engagement and learning outcomes.

As you can see, there are numerous benefits to incorporating technology through the use of iPads for preschool students. Please consider these points, and feel free to reach out to discuss them further. I would be happy to explore additional details and potential implementations with you.

Thank you,
Adaliz Barroso

References

Epic! Creations Inc. (n.d.). *Fuel curiosity & reading confidence with Epic*. [Video]. Epic - Books

for Kids. <https://www.getepic.com/>

Postlight Reader. (n.d.). Postlight Reader. <https://reader.postlight.com/>