iPads, Apps, Vocabulary and Writing in the Elementary Classroom

Presenter: Sarah Park
About Me

- Bachelor’s Degree: Elementary Education – UCF
- Master’s Degree: Reading Education – UCF
- Doctoral Degree: Education focusing on Technology Instruction – JHU (current)

Currently teaching at Azalea Park Elementary School as a 5th grade teacher.
Why Vocabulary?

- Vocabulary is defined as knowledge of words and the ability to use these words in generation and understanding of sentences.
- Essential for language acquisition and development
- Necessary factor for success in school and achievement in society
- Substantial body of evidence demonstrating a link between vocabulary and students’ ability to read and comprehend passages

(Beck, McCaslin, & McKeown, 1980; Coleman, 1971; Draper and Moellar, 1971; Klare, 1984; National Reading Panel, 2000)
Why iPads?

- Self-regulate their learning
- Multiple exposure to words
- Captures interest of students
- Provides scaffolding
- Immediate access to additional resources
- Differentiated instruction
- Motivational and engagement tool
- Additional support for struggling students
- Familiarize with keyboard
Elaborative thinking and vocabulary exercises enhanced vocabulary knowledge, its retention, as well as the quality of students’ writing.

Teaching students how to generate and use more action words, action helpers, and describing words in their compositions improved quality of stories.

Instruction in theme-related words and their use resulted in improvements in the quality of students’ written products.

Compositions were more structured and had more substance.
Quizlet

- Flashcards, Scatter, Learn
  - control of their own learning and pace
  - hear the pronunciation of each word
  - practice typing on keyboard
  - Self-motivation

- approach in a sneaky manner
ShowMe

- Interactive whiteboard
  - Record voice and draw or display pictures using the internet
  - Can be used to explain a wide range of topics and can be shared online
Pictello

- Interactive Story Board
  - create visual stories
  - record student voices
  - practice using vocabulary words to enhance writing
Questions? Comments?

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