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EDAM 528-900
Assignment 1

Introduction

This researcher has been providing private tutoring for the past year. Presently there are eight students. Six of the students are tutored for reading support and intervention. This group consists of two first graders and four second graders. All but two of the students are home schooled. All sessions are private and take place in the researcher's home office. The students are also encouraged work on their reading skills at home with various computer activities designed to improve phonics and word recognition skills.

Identification of Problem Area and Rationale

The purpose of this study is to determine if student engagement among a group of first and second grade students will improve by integrating technology that accommodates specific learner strengths as determined by a multiple intelligence inventory. Since it this researchers observation that student engagement is an important factor in academic success, this research would have a positive impact on my students.

This researcher has been interested in Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences for quite some time. In his book, *Frames of Mind,* Gardner introduced his theory of multiple intelligences (1983). This book challenged the notion of one form of intelligence measured with paper and pencil tests. Through much research and observation, Gardner, a developmental psychologist, proposed that individuals possessed several individual intelligences. This theory was, for the most part, ignored by the psychological community, but embraced by educators for its educational implications (Gardner, 1993).

Each student will be given a Multiple Intelligences Survey designed for younger students and use iPad apps matched to the student's specific dominant intelligences as tools to increase student engagement in the learning process.

A review of the literature will determine just what student engagement should look like. A rubric will be developed to use while observing the students during their tutoring sessions. A questionnaire will be developed for the parents to fill out to determine how the students' engagements with reading activities are at home.

Improvement Possibilities

Through this study, it is hoped that each student's engagement with reading will be improved.. Since reading is an essential skill used across the curriculum, each student will have a better chance of becoming a successful learner. The findings of this study will also influence the way that this researcher incorporates technology into lesson planning.

References

Gardner, H. (1983). *Frames of mind: the theory of multiple intelligences.* New York: Basic Books.

Gardner, H. (1993). *Multiple intelligences: The theory in practice.* New York: Basic Boos.