

MEDT 6401

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Website Evaluation Exercise

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Content

The content of the website deals with phonics and reading instruction. I feel the site does a good job of matching the content of the site to Georgia Reading standards, especially for kindergarten to second grade. The vocabulary used is appropriate for this particular age group and is kid friendly and engaging. The menu choices allow a student to vary the level of instruction reading harder material as necessary.

Technical Aspects

This web site is appropriate to use with the computer. Action buttons sparkle letting little ones know what to click next. Sound cannot be turned off within the web page. I feel this is due to the fact the site content is designed to be heard. Unfortunately this site does not track student progress. The instructions are clear and visual elements reinforce navigation of the site. I cannot find a way for the user to skip over most of the instructions.

Design

The graphics and sound are very effective to the program. The sounds in particular, reinforce the lessons being taught. The design layout is well planned and consistent. Difficulty of instruction does not adjust according to user response, and little feedback is given. Students do have the ability to make changes using various menu options. There is some error feedback.

Support

This web site is very self-explanatory. It is a free site and needs very little technological support. There are a few help links included. There are also links for additional print resources. Additional learning activities are suggested through the links to the “new” Starfall site.

Motivation

The site is easy to use. The students that I have tested this site with all are highly engaged and motivated.