MEDT 6401

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3.11 Website Evaluation Activity

http://www.starfall.com/

I chose to review the above website as I believe it is a valuable resource for teaching Reading. I have used this website in the past with kindergarteners in the first weeks of school. At that age it is hard for many of them just to understand the hardware so the fact that students can gain information from this site with so little computer experience says something about the design of the site.

I feel the content of the site is of great value as it introduces letter recognition and phonics skills in a fun and interactive way. Students want to learn more as they navigate the site. The site has tiered learning activities beginning from recognizing upper and lowercase letters to reading books online.

This site can be used in many areas. It can be used in a classroom setting in a learning center or projected onto a interactive board for whole group instruction. Teachers may even print out resources for students. This site is free and can be accessed at a student's home provided the student has Internet access. Personally, I have used the site in a computer lab classroom to teach students how to use a mouse, enter items using a keyboard, and drag and drop objects. My kindergarten students also learned how to use a web browser and click on the link from our

school web page, overall it was a fun and useful way to introduce students to technology, (some of my students of this age have never touched a computer.)

In addition to this being a valuable tool to teach young students computer skills, this site reinforces many Georgia Language Arts standards. For my kindergartners it addresses:

ELAKR3 The student demonstrates the relationship between letters and letter combinations of written words and the sounds of spoken words. The student
b. Recognizes and names all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
c. Matches all consonant and short-vowel sounds to appropriate letters.
d. Blends individual sounds to read one-syllable decodable words.
e. Applies learned phonics skills when reading words and sentences in stories.

I have also used the site with 1st and 2nd graders as they have similar standards for phonics.

I like that this site can be used in many settings and for many different teachers. One could use it for instruction or remediation, in large groups, small groups or one on one. Schools, parents, and students can access it freely.