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A is for App: Surveying Teachers About the Use of iPads/ Tablets in the Classroom

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A is for App: Surveying Teachers About the use of iPads/Tablets in the Classroom

Christine Scheper

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carlos Panahon

Overview

- ◆ Importance of topic
- ◆ Past studies
- ◆ Purpose of my study
- ◆ Methods
- ◆ Survey
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Limitations
- ◆ Future research

Importance of Technology

- ◆ **Becoming very popular in classrooms**
- ◆ **In June 2013, of the 155 million iPads sold, 6% or 10 million were in schools (Leonard, 2013)**
- ◆ **Not a lot of research done in this area of study**
- ◆ **Is it helping or hindering children**
- ◆ **What are the teachers using them for?**

Past Studies

- ◆ **Research that has been completed on this topic is mixed** (Hutchison, A., Beschorner, B., & Schmidt-Crawford, D. 2012)
- ◆ **iPad allows educators and students to do things in educational settings that they could not do from a teaching and learning perspective** (Murray & Olcese, 2011)
- ◆ **They believe iPads will not ignite a revolution in schools** (Murray & Olcese, 2011)

Murray and Olcese (2011)

- ◆ Looked at all apps under the education portion of the Apple store
- ◆ Classified them into five learning categories
- ◆ Found many of the useful teaching apps are outside the education category

Purpose of Study

- ◆ **Extend the findings from Murray and Olcese**
 - < Four categories: tutor, explore, tool, and communicate
- ◆ **The four categories provided by Murray and Olcese were broken down by subject matter**
 - < Helpful for teachers to know which apps to use for each subject

Purpose of Study

- ◆ Know why kindergarten through sixth grade teachers are using technology in the classroom
- ◆ Teachers perspective if technology is beneficial to the students
- ◆ Know the current uses of tablet technology in the classroom in addition to figuring out which type of apps are being used

Hypotheses

- ◆ Apps in the classroom are serving as instructional aids and curriculum supplements in order to improve students learning
- ◆ The tutor application category is highly used

Methods

- ◆ 18 question survey
- ◆ Kindergarten through sixth grade teachers
- ◆ Part 1: demographic information
- ◆ Part 2: their experience with iPads/tablets
- ◆ Part 3: three most popular applications that fall under each category

Survey

1. Gender

< 84% Female, 16% Male

2. Age

< Average age: 38, Range: 24-62

Survey

3. What grade(s) are you currently teaching?

< Kindergarten: 25%

< 1st grade: 21%

< 2nd grade: 19%

< 3rd grade: 25%

< 4th grade: 25%

< 5th grade: 16%

< 6th grade: 19%

< Other: 8%

Survey

4. How many years have you been teaching?

< Average: 14.5, Range: 2-31

5. What kind of iPads/tablets are available for use in the classroom?

< iPad: 100%

6. How many iPads/tablets are available for use by students in the classroom?

< Average: 12, Range: 0-32

Survey

7. How many iPads/tablets are available for use by the teachers in the classroom?

< Average: 2, Range: 0-30

8. What was the intended purpose of the iPads/tablets in the classroom when they were originally provided?

< Instructional aid: 39%

< Instructional aid and skill practice: 23%

< Interventions: 6%

< Other: 5%

< Reinforcement: 3%

Survey

9. What is the current purpose of the iPads/tablets in your classroom?

- < Instructional aid and skill practice: 26%
- < Instructional aid: 25%
- < Skill practice: 10%
- < Reinforcement/reward: 6%

10. Were there any challenges getting iPads/tablets into your classroom?

- < Yes: 66% (expense, sharing with other staff/classrooms, app installation)
- < No: 34%

Survey

11. Have there been any challenges you have faced while incorporating iPads/tablets in your classroom?

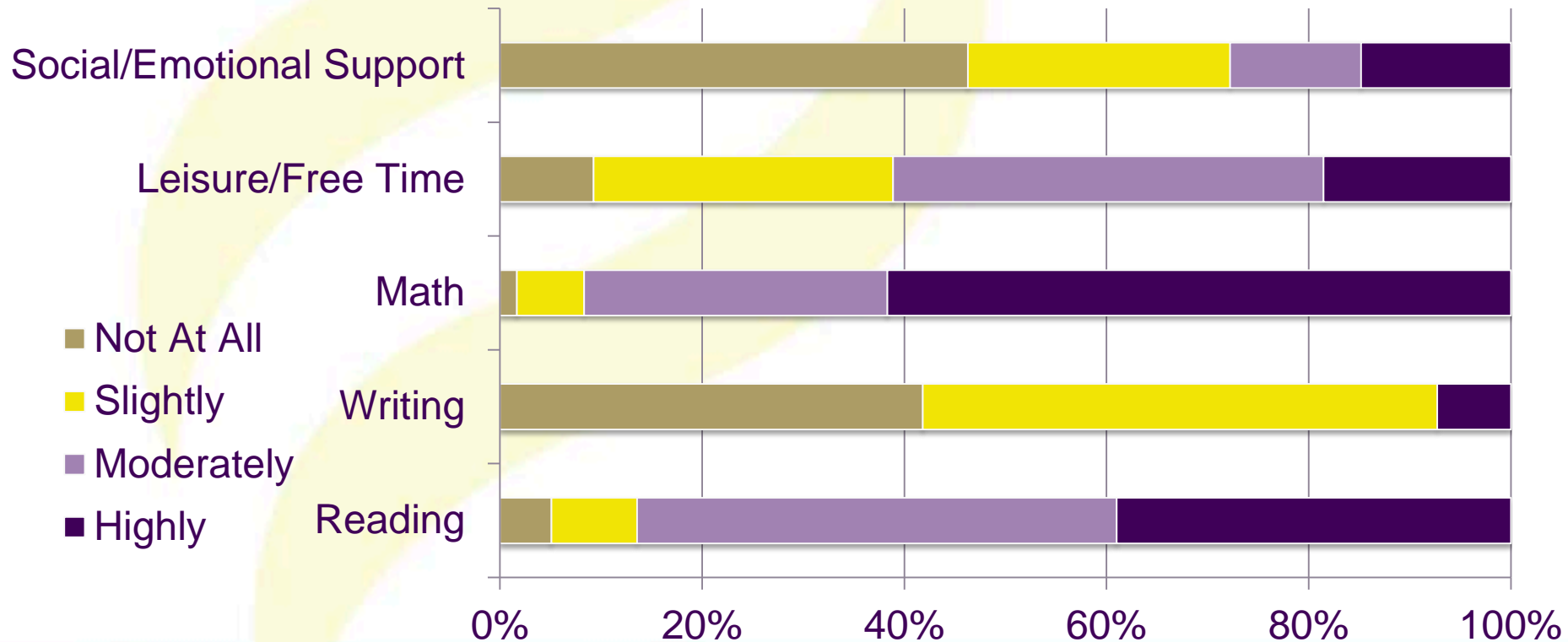
- < Yes 73% (sharing with other staff/classrooms, app installation)
- < No: 27%

12. Have the iPads/tablets helped in your classroom?

- < Yes: 95%, No: 5%

Survey

13. Please rank how beneficial iPads/tablets have been in each category



Survey

14. Top 3 apps used for reading

◆ Explorative

- < Tumblebooks (8)
- < ScootPad (7)
- < Starfall (3)
- < ABCya (3)

◆ Tutor

- < Educreations (2)

Survey

15. Top 3 apps used for writing

◆ Tutor

- < Google (3)
- < Educreations (2)
- < Screen chomp (2)
- < Dictionary (1)

Survey

16. Top 3 apps used for math

- ◆ **Explorative**

- < iXL (30)
- < Sushi monster (6)
- < Flash to pass (5)
- < Everyday math apps (5)
- < Zombie math (5)
- < Scootpad (3)

- ◆ **Tutor**

- < Educreations (1)

Survey

17. Top 3 apps used for leisure/free time

◆ Tool

- < Camera (2)
- < Elmo ABCs (1)

◆ Explorative

- < iXL (1)
- < Khan academy (1)

Survey

18. Top 3 apps used for social/emotional support

◆ Tool

< School express (1)

< Visual timer (1)

Conclusions

- ◆ Apps in the classroom are serving as instructional aids and curriculum supplements in order to improve students learning
- ◆ The tutor application category is highly used
- ◆ Used for their intended purpose
- ◆ Teachers feel iPads are most beneficial in Math and Reading

Limitations

- ◆ **Approval process**
- ◆ **Minnesota weather**
- ◆ **Small sample size**
- ◆ **Only southern Minnesota**
- ◆ **Kindergarten through sixth grade**
- ◆ **Some participants did not answer all of the questions**

Future Research

- ◆ Amount of time children are using technology
- ◆ Look more into how it is helping/hindering students (grades, performance)
- ◆ Observing in class settings
- ◆ Figuring out who decides on what apps are being used, how do they decide this?

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Questions?