

EDC 810- Technology in Elementary Education

Digital Photo Essay- Current Practice with Technology during COVID-19 pandemic

Current practice with technology for education

Include a digital photo that well represents the current practice with technology for education that you witnessed in your practicum.



***Cite the photo here using APA format^[1]**

Walker, G. (2020). *Glendale Elementary first grader Hawkes Powell tries to pay attention to his virtual class on the first day of school Aug. 4 in Nashville, Tenn.* [Online Image]. The Tennessean. Retrieved from: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2020/09/28/covid-online-schools-back-to-school-missing-kids/3519203001/>

***Digital Photo Narration & Personal Statement (at least 300 words): Write a story describing the people, setting, feeling, and action in the photo. Explain**

^{1]} References:

Artist Surname, First Initial. Second Initial. (Year). Title of the artwork [Format]. Retrieved from URL (address of web site)

References (No Author):

Title of work [Type of work]. (Year image was created). Retrieved from URL (address of web site)

References (No Author, No Title, No Date):

[Subject and type of work]. Retrieved from URL (address of web site)

Example:

Sağır, G. (2009). *To be children..* [Online Image]. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/aycasanflickrcom/3343460827/>

why you chose the photo and how it explains the current practice with technology for education in your practicum site.

Lastly, explain how you feel about the practice? Do you like it or dislike it and why? Use relevant terminology from your previous coursework to support your statement.

The photo above depicts a young first grade boy attending virtual class on the first day of school. Even on the first day of school, when one would assume that the novelty of online school would capture the attention of students, Hawkes Powell appears exhausted, with his head in his hands.

I chose this photo because I think it accurately depicts what it is like for our young students experiencing virtual school. This is not the way children are meant to learn. At my practicum site, my second-grade students are in front of their computers and learning for 4 hours a day. That is not sustainable nor conducive to learning. Many times, I've seen children look as exhausted and "zoned out" as the child pictured in the photograph above.

I believe this is an extremely common experience for young children in virtual school. Their development and their needs cannot be fully met through a computer screen. They want to be able to see their friends and socialize. Unfortunately, their learning has been confined to a virtual space that is not as accessible and does not allow us to meet the needs of all of our students in the ways we want.

And when this student (as is the case in my practicum site) is one of 60 students, it is so challenging to reengage them with the material. Teachers are dealing with the students who are manipulating the technology to cause disruption, and children such as the one pictured above are forced to sit and wait and not get the individualized attention that they may need in order to be successful. Everything we know about classroom management and engaging students has to be re-learned and "revamped" to fit this virtual space.

This is the case for so many students and I worry that these negative experiences with school will persist even when schools can open traditionally. The negative connotation with this experience will create anxiety for what it will be like in-person. Children will lose their love of learning.

Current practice with technology for social and emotional development

Include a digital photo that well represents how your school uses technology for children's social and emotional development (e.g., emotional well-being, coping with crisis, stress, socialization)



***Cite the photo here using APA format^[1]**

Huff, M. (2020). *Ms. Huff's Virtual Classroom*. [Online Image]. Michelle Huff. Retrieved from: <https://www.nj.com/education/2020/09/gym-class-heroes-how-covid-19-is-forcing-phys-ed-teachers-to-change-the-game.html>

***Digital Photo Narration & Personal Statement (at least 300 words): Write a story describing the people, setting, feeling, and action in the photo. Explain why you chose the photo and how it explains the current practice with technology for social and emotional development in your practicum site. Lastly, explain how you feel about the practice? Do you like it or dislike it and why? Use relevant terminology from your previous coursework to support your statement.**

The image depicted above shows Michelle Huff's Bitmoji classroom. A New Jersey physical education teacher, Ms. Huff spent hours crafting and perfecting her virtual space, as she knows the importance of creating a welcoming environment.

Through the use of the Bitmoji classroom, students are able to have quick access to necessary resources in a space crafted just for them.

As educators, we've studied the importance of creating a welcoming environment. We know that when students enter our classroom (virtually or in-person), we need to create spaces which are inviting to our students.

Within our physical classrooms, we are able to hang student work and decorate the

classroom to feel like more than a space with desks and a whiteboard. When teachers cultivate a welcoming learning environment, students feel safe and more comfortable taking risks in their learning. They feel supported and cared for.

The Bitmoji classroom pictured above allows students to see the values held by Ms. Huff (kindness & mindfulness) and provides them with easily accessible coursework.

The students are able to get to know the teacher in this virtual space. They can see what she likes and can begin to imagine how she teaches. It shows her passion as an educator and that she takes pride in this image and can maintain it in this virtual space.

In addition, Ms. Huff provides directions on how to use the Bitmoji classroom. She has utilized technology to create easier access to course materials for her students. In learning this new technique, it shows families that Ms. Huff has taken the time or of her schedule to use these current best practices and experiment with online teaching prior to starting the first Zoom call.

I feel as though this teacher has gone the “extra mile” to show her students that even during remote learning, we can change and adapt. She was able to create this virtual space that will become familiar to her students. It will reduce the barriers to accessing materials (i.e. unclear directions, multi-step processes, etc.) and become part of the routine for these students. Similar to the familiarity of know where things are in the classroom, creating this virtual space and giving students a “tour” will allow them to feel more at ease.

Current practice with technology for childcare

Include a digital photo that well represents how your school uses technology for childcare (e.g., health, safety, support during lunch time, transition, toileting, recess)



***Cite the photo here using APA format^[1]**

Byrne, K. (2020). *Before COVID-19, Milwaukee Recreation provided before and after school care. Now, you can sign up for that and have staff take care of your kids during the school day.* [Online Video Frame Still]. WTMJ-TV Milwaukee. Retrieved from: <https://www.tmj4.com/rebound/parents-turn-to-milwaukee-recreation-for-childcare-during-virtual-learning>

***Digital Photo Narration & Personal Statement (at least 300 words): Write a story describing the people, setting, feeling, and action in the photo. Explain why you chose the photo and how it explains the current practice with technology for childcare in your practicum site.**

Lastly, explain how you feel about the practice? Do you like it or dislike it and why? Use relevant terminology from your previous coursework to support your statement.

The image pictured above is a still from a video from WTMJ-TV Milwaukee. The video discusses how Milwaukee Recreation is handling childcare during the pandemic.

The picture shows the director of The Milwaukee Recreation Department with one of the children who participates in this after school program. they're sitting on a rug together watching a video of someone meditating.

I chose this image because I think it shows how much childcare centers and recreation departments are struggling to meet the needs of their patrons. there are so many families who need these childcare options due to the schedule involved with virtual learning. However, due to the regulations set by many states, this is what childcare looks like. One child sitting with an adult running the program.

In addition, the pandemic has changed the ways that we're able to entertain children. What once could be a room of kids playing tag or another active game, is now reduced to sitting and watching videos.

And while I am thankful for platforms such as GoNoodle and YouTube, which have churned out content we can use during the pandemic, it does leave me wondering how students will adapt in the future.

There are debates as to how long young children should be in front of a screen. However, because of the current state of the world, it can be challenging to decide how to plan leisure time for students after their virtual school day. This seems the only solution at the moment and yet, we're still watching a screen.

I worry about what life will be like for these students as we transition back to learning in person. They will have to adjust to the routines and greater structure that comes with learning in-person.

It's my hope that in showing these videos, we are not doing our students a disservice down the line. But there is so much we do not know at this time. We're working as hard as we can to continue to meet the needs of our students. It's my hope that our efforts to do so help the students more than they may harm.

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Digital photo selection	Digital photos are effectively utilized to describe best practices with technology in ECE/ELEM. At least 3 digital photos are found in the paper. thro	At least 3 digital photos are found in the paper. However, the chosen photos are somewhat irreverent or ineffective to describe best practices. piece.	Digital photos are minimally used and the photos are randomly selected.
Narration of digital photo	Has a clear focus with story details that support a creative,	Has a focused topic with story details that support a fairly logical	Could have missing parts that interfere with

	interesting, logical flow of events.	flow of events.	understanding; may be unfocused; rambling.
Personal statement	Clearly articulated examples/strategies to give reader a clear picture of best practices with technology in ECE.	Examples/strategies are not clearly articulated, too superficial, or not directly related to best practices with technology in ECE.	Examples/strategies are not articulated or do not relate to best practices with technology in ECE.
Reframing action by responding to guiding questions	Develops a creative and thoughtful vision for future teaching in a similar situation, using relevant terminology from coursework. Articulates a theory-into-action idea that is well suited to resolving the dilemma and promoting student learning.	Describes new ways for how the teacher would respond in a similar situation, using relevant terminology from coursework. Articulates a principle to guide their personal practice based on the analysis. Attempts to explain a concrete action step.	Describes practical ideas or solutions for responding to a similar situation but does not have a clear personal philosophy to guide future practice.
Mechanics	Writing is clear throughout, with few to no spelling or usage errors. Any errors are minor and do not affect meaning. References to digital photos are used consistently.	Writing contains some errors in spelling and usage. Generally, these errors do not affect meaning. References to digital photos and in-text citations are used inconsistently.	Writing contains many errors in spelling and usage. These errors affect meaning and clarity. No references and no in-text citations are used.