

Enhancing the Early Childhood eLearning Experience: Literacy and Literature in the Preschool Setting

Karen M Houser
Wei-Ying Hsiao
Southern Utah University
USA

houser@suu.edu, hsiao@suu.edu

Best Practices Session

The need to expand educational experiences for young children to include digital technology, is becoming increasingly vital as society, as a whole, immerses itself into the world of a myriad of techno-toys. These innovations are re-structuring the way we work and play. The same holds true of the educational experiences that our children will be involved in throughout their school careers. The authors have attempted to provide an interactive program for children to begin the elearning process at an early age as part of the literacy component of a university preschool curriculum.

The project has begun by training university students to transfer popular children's literature to PowerPoint presentations, which are then shared with young children at the campus lab school. Children were involved with an enlarged version of the printed book and were able to respond to illustrations and text. Data was collected from university students as to their attitudes toward this experience. The upcoming academic year will have university students take this elearning experience and expand upon it by having young children in the preschool lab school interact with the PowerPoint text by identifying pre-literacy concepts such as letter names, directionality of text, cover of book, title, author, illustrator, etc. Data will again be gathered to ascertain the effectiveness of this program.

AV Equipment Needed:

PC, Projector