Best Practices Weekly

Best Practices for Selecting Apps for Beginning Readers

"Selecting 'APP'ealing and 'APP'roprite Book Apps for Beginning Readers"

Summary: The appeal of digital literature for primary learners is unstoppable. Teachers need to ensure they select quality e-books. This article details criteria when choosing e-books for primary classrooms.

Practical Applications:

What are the benefits of using high quality digital picture books? Interactive e-books foster comprehension, promote trans-literacy development, decoding and the 5 elements of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, concepts about print, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension). They aid struggling readers by offering support for grade level text and encourage reading stamina.

What makes a quality electronic text?

Images – Readers use text and images to make meaning when reading so choose text that has quality images that support the text.

Narration-Expressive and fluent narration of an e-book enhances the reading experience. Some may be fully voiced, where each character has their own voice and some are read by the author. Some digital text even allows the reader to record their own narration.

Interactive Functions- Interactive features allow the reader to have a different experience with multiple readings of the same text. Look for digital books that allow the reader to control the functions and look for books that have multiple modes of interaction, such as read along, read-to-self, game modes or activity modes.

Conclusion and Citation:

Using e-book apps for beginning readers is a high engagement guarantee. Consider the elements of choosing a quality text for readers to interact with and always keep in mind the instructional purpose for use of the digital picture book.