EPSS

Electronic Performance Support Systems (EPSS) tools are new kinds of software to help students take control of their learning, behavior, and problem solving to improve success in school and to plan for transition.

The goal of an EPSS is to provide necessary supports to ensure independent learning and performance at the moment of need.

The tools are research-based on principles of cognitive-behavior change and strategic learning.

PictureTools

PictureTools are designed for pre-reading children and require minimal reading and no typing. Instead of typing, children select pictures from a photo library. Adults may insert their own digital photos into the library.

Examples of each tool are provided to help users create the tool cards. Once completed, the tool cards can be printed for use. Most tools provide self-monitoring options on the printed cards.

Feasibility Study

Participants

Four Kindergarten teachers (certified in elementary and special education) from a diverse, low SES, inner city school district and their students.

Method

After a 2-hour training session in which teachers were introduced to PictureTools and had an opportunity to create some tools, teachers used PictureTools with individual students and with the class for a 6-week period during the second semester.

Teachers provided samples of tools created, and completed a weekly Usage Log and a satisfaction survey at the end of the study.

Findings

- Teachers provided samples of 8 of 10 tools. Turtle Steps and Picture Contract were the only Tools not used.
- Most frequently used tools were Goal Card, Do It Steps, Do-It Mark-It, and Picture Countoon.
- All teachers reported that tools were easy to use and helped students to learn and behave better in school.
- Two teachers noted that the Red Light Green Light was confusing to students as they use a version of this in their school that goes from green to red as students display inappropriate behavior.
- Teachers requested additional tools for tattling, bullying, and social skills.

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http://kidtools.org