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ELL Resource List
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TESL 507

Internet and App Resource List for ELLs

Description of Learners

This resource list is intended for students in grades 3-5 in the Entering through Bridging WIDA proficiency ranges. These resources address reading and writing.

Online Resources

ePals
Website address: http://www.epals.com/
Description: the ePals website is a global community that helps link teachers and students from all over the world. Teachers can submit project ideas that other classes can collaborate on with them. Project ideas include language-learning, cultural, or content areas such as reading, writing, math, science, or social studies. Some projects are even linked to the Common Core State Standards. Teachers can also reach out to other teachers to build a relationship where both classes of students communicate with each other (through e-mail, Skype, or postal mail) for the purpose of practicing a language and building cultural awareness. There are teacher resources for purchase (link on website brings you to tools for school website) as well as internet resources, apps, and eBooks on the sister site www.cricket.com. This is a good resource for ELL students because it allows them to practice language competency within academic contexts and through discussion. It also promotes cultural responsiveness since the website provides students with the opportunities to enter discourse with other children from all over the globe. This is appropriate for all levels of English language proficiency. On particular project that seemed well-suited for my class was a project that a class in Texas was doing about holidays and traditions all around the world. The objective is to have students read and learn about various holidays and traditions all around the world and then write a personal narrative about a tradition or holiday personal to each child's culture. This would work well with the students in my group because it could be differentiated for a number of levels (students with limited proficiency could illustrate and label pictures while more advanced students could write a traditional personal narrative). Moreover, personal narratives fit in with writing standards for this grade level and this type of project would expand cultural awareness. The website for this project is http://www.epals.com/project-detail.php?id=9e0d0076-f760-4713-b4a5-eca0f9434029.
Reference: ePals, Inc. (2013). *ePals Global Community*. Retrieved from http://www.epals.com/

International Children's Digital Library
Website address: http://en.childrenslibrary.org/
Description: This website provides access to thousands of digital children's books from 60 countries all over the world. The collection has books in many different languages including English, Spanish, Italian, Persian, Arabic, etc. Some books are dual language books, with English language on the top and another language on the bottom. Other books are available in multiple languages. This is a good resource for ELL students because it provides students with access to thousands of books for free. Students can access this website at home or at the public library to practice reading high quality children's literature without the cost of buying the book. This website is also a good resource because it provides students with the opportunity to read books in their native languages which can be a wonderful tool for home/school collaboration. This resource would be useful for students with limited English proficiency but some native language proficiency since they could access books in their native language or bilingual books. This is also useful for students with higher English proficiency (Developing to Bridging) since they could practice reading in English.
Reference:
ICDL Foundation (n.d.). *ICDL-International Children's Digital Library.* Retrieved from http://en.childrenslibrary.org/

Audible for kids
Website address: http://www.audible.com/cat/Kids/Ages-8-10-Audiobooks/
Description: This website has audiobooks for purchase. Children can view and listen to books in English or in other languages. The choices on the website are plentiful and books can be searched for by title, keyword, genre, age group, etc. This website is meaningful for ELL students because it allows students to listen to a story while he/she looks on at the words. Having the book read to the student provides the support necessary for emerging or developing students to begin interacting with text. Developing through bridging students can also use this resource to access books that may be difficult to decode but orally understandable. Students can practice word recognition and listening comprehension through the use of this website at home or at the public library. There are also books available in languages other than English. One book may be downloaded for free with a free 30-day trial membership. Monthly plans range from $14.95-$22.95 or books can be downloaded for about $10-$15 a book. Since this is a costly website, it may be something that is best used in the classroom instead of at home.
Reference:
Audible, Inc. (2013). *Audible*. Retrieved from http://www.audible.com/cat/Kids/Ages-8-10-Audiobooks/

Application (App) Resources

International Children's Digital Library App
App Publisher: ICDL Foundation
Cost: Free
Description: This is the app version of the International Children's Digital Library website. This app allows children to access free digital books in a number of languages on an iPhone or iPad. This is useful for ELL students because it provides portable access to thousands of high quality children's books that can be accessed from anywhere. As aforementioned, this app would be appropriate for students who are literate in their native language (even if they are Entering or Emerging in English) or students with some English language proficiency (Developing to Bridging). Moreover, students who cannot afford to buy books or who are unable to visit/intimidated by the library will still have access to books to practice reading. Teachers can use this resource to highlight the importance of the home language and to support family literacy.
Reference:
ICDL Foundation (2008). ICDL Books for Children. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from https://itunes.apple.com/app/icdl-books-for-children-international/id295441481?mt=8

Werdsmith
App Publisher: Nathan Tesler
Cost: Free
Description: Werdsmith is a portable writing studio that allows students to type all sorts of genres of text including poems, short stories, blog posts, essays, etc. Students can begin projects and return to them later to finish or revise. Werdsmith also allows a teacher to set goals for a student (number of words, for example) and tracks the student's progress toward those goals. Teachers and other students can also provide feedback and comments to the students. Additionally, Werdsmith is beneficial as a digital portfolio of student work. This would suit ELL students in the Emerging and higher levels since you would need to know how to write at least words and simple sentences in order for this to be a useful resource. It would be useful to ELL students as a place to get writing ideas down, explore genres of writing, and revise and store work. Since comments can be left this app can be used to encourage conversation among students or used for home collaboration. For example, a teacher could assign students to read and leave a comment on someone else's writing piece. Teachers could also assign a home writing assignment and leave comments or suggestions.
Reference: Tesler, Nathan (2013). Werdsmith. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.

Sight Words Sentence Builder
App Publisher: Sierra Vista Software

Cost: $1.99

Description: This game helps students build Dolch Sight Word knowledge. This game includes all the Dolch Sight Word Levels. Children are required to put together short sentences from given words. The app provides the student with visual and auditory feedback. This game is simple to understand and allows students to practice sight words within the context of a simple sentence. This app is useful for ELL students because it builds sight word and sentence knowledge within a context and with visual and auditory feedback. This would be most useful for Emerging, Developing, and Entering students since it is working on sight words which is a lower level skill, but within the context of a sentence which requires some literacy. A teacher resource for this app can be found at http://www.prometheanplanet.com/en-us/Resources/Item/136474/cut-up-sentences. This is a link to a Promethean board flipchart that teaches students how to put sentences together using the "cut up sentence" method. Teachers could also practice this skill is by using the "cut up sentences" method on sentence strips.

Reference: Sierra Vista Software. (2013). Sight Words Sentence Builder. [Mobile application software].Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.

Sentence Builder app for iPad
App Publisher: Mobile Education Store LLC
Cost: $5.99
Description: This app helps students build sentences that are grammatically correct (with a focus on "connector" words). The student is required to choose the appropriate words to build a grammatically correct sentence. The app has 3 levels and includes pictures. There is also audio reinforcement of the correct sentences and the ability to track student progress. This app is helpful for ELL students because it allows them to practice grammar within the context of a sentence, offers visual support, and auditorally responds with the correct sentence. This app helps build writing proficiency because it has the students build grammatically correct sentences in written text. Though the students are not spelling the words out, they are picking the words that are necessary to build an appropriate sentence. This allows the students to practice using and reading common words since they are required to build text. The three levels are helpful to gear practice toward each child's English proficiency level. This would be beneficial for Emerging trough Bridging students since the grammar practiced in this app appears to be more advanced.

Reference: Mobile Education Store LLC. (2011). Sentence Builder. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from www.mobile-educationstore.com

Simplex Spelling Phonics
App Publisher: Pyxwise Software Inc.
Cost: Free for the "lite" version, $4.99 for full version
Description: Simplex Spelling provides students with phonics lessons and spelling/word pattern practice with contextually relevant spelling rules. The lite version has 50 spelling words and the

full version offers over 450 high frequency spelling words divided into 42 lists. Each list is organized by phonics rule and level. Lessons address phonograms, sounds, and spelling rules. This app is useful for ELL students because it teaches some of the most common phonograms and spelling rules using the highest frequency words in the English language. Therefore, by practicing these spelling rules with high frequency words, students will be able to apply the skills to everyday writing since they encounter these words on a regular basis. There are also levels which can be useful for varying levels of English proficiency, from developing to expanding. These words are suitable for native English speakers ages 6-8, so they would be appropriate for older non-native speakers (though I would not use this for students outside of elementary school since the graphics might appear a little childish to them). A teacher resource to use with this app is www.spellingcity.com. Teachers can take the words from the lists practiced by using the app and input them into spellingcity.com so students can practice the same words using the various games on the spellingcity.com website.

Reference: Pyxwise Software Inc. (2013). Simplex Spelling Phonics. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.

Super Reader, Comprehension (Grade 2-3)
App Publisher: Power Math Apps
Cost: $1.99
Description: This app provides students with 21 short passages to read. One version of the app has fiction passages while another version has non-fiction passages. Non-fiction topics include famous people, occupations, and places while fiction topics include stories about activities (birthday parties, going to the movies, apple picking), pets, among others. After reading each passage, the students take a multiple choice comprehension quiz. Multiple readers can be added to the app and student progress can be tracked. This app is useful for ELL students because it provides them with practice reading and answering comprehension questions. Teachers can see if the students are able to answer comprehension questions about a particular passage. The reading levels for grades 2-3 is appropriate for students in the developing to expanding ranges for the students in grades 3-5.

Reference: Power Math Apps. (2013). Super Reader. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.

SpellingCity
App Publisher: SpellingCity
Cost: Free
Description: SpellingCity is an app that allows students to practice spelling lists using high interest games like HangMouse and Missing Letter. There is also Spelling TeachMe which introduces the words to the student in a mini-lesson and Spelling TestMe which is a spelling test that read each word aloud, uses it in a sentence, repeats the word, and receive instant feedback upon completion. A teacher resource that can be used with this app is www.spellingcity.com.

Teachers can enter custom word lists if they are registered members of www.spellingcity.com (registration is free). This app is useful for ELL students because they can practice taught spelling patterns during school or at home in a highly engaging way. Teachers can customize lists to the needs of the students so it is appropriate for all levels of language proficiency.
Reference: SpellingCity. (2013). SpellingCity. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.

Skitch
App Publisher: Evernote
Cost: Free
Description: Skitch is an app that allows you to take photos and add text to the photos. Arrows and highlighting can also be added. This app is a good resource for ELL students because it allows the students to use visuals and simple text to communicate. Moreover, based on the level of need of the student, teachers can take the pictures and have the students write the caption or the teacher can take the picture and write the caption and have the students fill in the blank. As a result, this app would be useful with all English language proficiencies, as long as the student is able to write at the word level. This app would also be useful for building language experience approach stories or community based stories since photographs could be taken during the experience and students can later add text to the pictures. A teacher resource that can be used with this app can be found at http://www.gobookee.org/writing-captions-pictures-esl-school/. This website has a variety of resources for teaching students how to write captions.
Reference: Evernote. (2013). Skitch. [Mobile application software]. Retrieved from the iTunes store on the Apple iPhone.