

Activity Reflection #1

For our first Activity Reflection, we were asked to search the internet to find educationally relevant material. Prior to this activity I did tend to think of myself as a very capable internet searcher, as I am a self-proclaimed Google addict. I search Google at least 10 times a day for something educational related or child related for my 6 month old son, plus I absolutely love Gmail and could not live without it. So for me this assignment seemed like it would be a walk in the park. Only I realized quite early on that this was no park I had ever been too.

After more than three hours hopping from search engine to search engine, Florida Department of Education and Seminole County Public Schools websites, it dawned on me that my searching techniques were outdated and sub-par at best. However, after all this time and effort I walked away with a multitude of valuable websites, lesson plan ideas and free printables; which are my favorite part of searching teacher resources. Not to mention, the great list of educator search tools from our textbook, many of which I had never even heard of before this assignment.

To begin my quest for knowledge I decided to start my focus on one topic, *the five senses* for a Kindergarten classroom. There is a big push for Science Curriculum this year and the five senses is a topic we will be covering until the end of September and lately I have been racking my brain for as many lesson ideas as I can come up with. So I ventured to three sites from the recommended list in our textbook; A to Z Teachers Stuff, Education World and Learning Page; in hopes of finding something of academic use in my classroom. Out of all three sites, I found the most relevant and useful information to my search topic, *the five senses*, was on A to Z Teachers Stuff.

I then continued to explore the Florida DOE and Seminole County Public Schools (SCPS) websites. Both sites presented relatively the same information, but I personally preferred the Seminole County site over the FL DOE. To me the FL DOE site was extremely general and did not offer enough resources, where SCPS had tons of information for parents, students and teachers. I would feel more comfortable recommending the SCPS site to my students and their parents than the FL DOE, because I found the DOE site to be extremely difficult to navigate.

After all my searching and bookmarking of websites I looked down at the clock and wondered where did all that time go? I have a habit of getting “sucked in” to the internet without even realizing it. One minute I’m searching the five senses, and then I find a cute lesson on gingerbread men and start searching for gingerbread men lessons. It is a vicious cycle that I get wrapped into on a daily basis. However, this assignment was so much more than your average class assignment, because the amount of knowledge and resources I took away will last me for my entire teaching career. I feel far more confident in my internet searching abilities, not to mention all the new search tools I was given. Of course, I know our digital age changes so quickly, but my hope is that with my new skills I’ll be able to keep up with the times and the rest of my fellow digital educators.

<http://groups.diigo.com/group/eme5050/content/user/REDACTEDUSERNAME>

NETS-T: 4. Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility

Teachers understand local and global societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and exhibit legal and ethical behavior in their professional practices. Teachers:

b. address the diverse needs of all learners by using learner-center strategies providing equitable access to appropriate digital tools and resources.

NETS-T: 5. Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership

Teachers continuously improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in their school and professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources. Teachers:

a. participate in local and global learning communities to explore creative applications of technology to improve student learning.

c. evaluate and reflect on current research and professional practice on a regular basis to make effective use of existing and emerging digital tools and resources in support of student learning.

d. contribute to the effectiveness, vitality, and self-renewal of the teaching profession and of their school and community.