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Teacher Interview 1

How have you used technology to create powerful opportunities for your students?

 I interviewed my mom who works back home in a kindergarten classroom as a one on one. The student she works with has severe autism. In order for him to communicate, they have an iPad. On the iPad is an app that has all of his classmates names, his teachers names, classrooms and places in the school he goes to, and other vocabulary that he needs and uses on the daily. My mom carries this iPad with them wherever they go, whether it’s in the classroom, the OT room, the cafeteria or anywhere else in the school. The app he uses to communicate is called proloquo2go. He also has a reward iPad, on this iPad, he uses it for behavior management. The timer is on here, which tells him how much time he has doing something or until the next task, and he can earn time on this iPad. There are educational games like abc write where he traces letters and numbers with his finger and a youtube app. His favorite earned time is to watch youtube videos about numbers. They also use this to watch videos to do math, there are a lot of interactive math/ exercise videos for the students to watch and do individually. A popular channel is GoNoodle which has interactive catchy songs and dances. In his classroom, they use the smart board to do calendar, attendance, whole group math, scholastic news and many other interactive things for the large group of the class. They also attend computer class once a week where he learns how to use the mouse on the computer for beginner skills. Another cool tool she told me about that is used in the classroom is a voice assist. The teacher wears a speaker/ microphone around her neck and the little boy who has hearing aids actually can hear exactly what she is saying because it converts right into his hearing aids. This is helpful for when the teacher is in whole group and the student can’t hear her because she is not directly in front of him. Reflecting on what she told me, I think all of these tools are greatly helping the boy with autism to be able to function better in the general education classroom. Not only can he communicate with anyone in his classroom, but he can use it to say what he wants, what he needs and what he is frustrated with. I think this connects with what we’ve learned so far mainly with the personalized learning. He is going at his own pace in the classroom with his one on one and he is able to use technology with his iPad and hopefully work up to using the smart board with the rest of the class.