Hannah Edgette

SPE 710

Synthesis Paper

 This course has taught me a lot about different types of assistive technology, and the difference they make in peoples’ everyday lives. I was able to reflect on the amount of technology I depend on throughout the day, and what it helps me to accomplish. I use all different types of technology that help me to get done what I need to for work, school, and my personal life. This reminded me how important it is to try different types of assistive technology to support students throughout their day. By being aware of the different resources available, teachers can find what will best support their individual students. In this course I learned about many of the different resources that are available. I didn’t realize how many different apps there were to teach numerous skills and content areas, such as *Let’s Be Social* and *AppWriter*. It was interesting to learn about all of the different low tech and high tech resources that are available for students in school and at home. I did not realize how many different types of resources there were available.

The public school I currently work at incorporates different types of assistive technology in classrooms to better support the students. Many of the students use fidget toys, noise cancelling headphones, and different types of balance chairs. Working in a special education classroom I feel it is important that I know about the different resources and tools that are available and may support one of the students. Many of these tools help make school and daily life less stressful, painful, and traumatic. I look forward to trying some of the different tools and resources I learned about, with my students next year.

One of the tools I learned about in this course was the Adaptive Key Holder, which I ordered following class one day. My father has been living with Parkinson’s Disease for the past ten years, and he has recently been struggling a lot with fine motor tasks. This key holder will make it much easier for him to unlock his home and garage. Being able to help my own father, and make his day just a little bit easier, made me realize how important these tools and resources are for people.