

Using the interactive whiteboard to support literacy

PDST TECHNOLOGY
IN EDUCATION

Ní neart go cur le chéile – the truth of this well known proverb has seldom been more clearly illustrated than during last summer's TeacherCPD.ie online course, where over 1,150 teachers shared ideas on using the interactive whiteboard (IWB) to support literacy. The following includes some of the ideas gathered by their e-Tutors, with thanks to the contributing teachers.

Using the IWB Reveal tool

"A great stimulus for oral language and creative writing is to show half a picture of someone looking at something with a particular facial expression. Children discuss and write about what is happening on the other (hidden) half. The teacher then reveals the full picture at the end of the lesson."

The Spotlight tool

"When introducing a new sound in a junior infant phonics lesson, for example /p/, I upload a large picture on the IWB. Using the spotlight tool, I explore the picture, getting the children to identify things in the picture that begin with the sound /p/."

Locking and layering

"We are using the Oxford Reading Tree programme in our school. The locking and layering tool is used to create a word wall to teach relevant vocabulary, including characters' names and high frequency words.

"Then, locking and layering, grouping and the camera are used to make character profiles for each character. We sequence the characters' stories and the things that they like. As a form of assessment, the children match the characters to the things that they like – initially using pictures, then words."

Combining tools to good effect

"The class take pictures of different stages of an outing. Then, I develop the children's oral language skills by asking questions about the pictures using the spotlight and reveal tools. Using the camera/jigsaw tool, children sequence the events of the day themselves. Older children write a descriptive paragraph about it or use the pen and eraser tools to create a related cloze activity."

Special educational needs

"I teach a few children with Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, some of whom have speech and language delays and fine motor issues. As they benefit from visual learning opportunities, the camera tool is used to allow new pupils to become familiar with faces of staff or classmates and their location within the school. After discussion and naming, this oral language activity is presented as a matching game e.g., pupils match Secretary Mary's photo to a photo of her office.

Senior classes

"When studying a novel, I create an introductory game by using the camera tool and jumbled up jigsaw images of the story's main characters. The children work in teams to order the pieces to complete each character.

"Once this is finished, I 'send/bring to front' the complete image of one of the characters on a new flipchart and lock it in place. Surrounding this character's image, I have many adjectives to describe the character, including incorrect adjectives which are also 'sent to front'. The children discuss and justify which of these words correctly describe the character, then drag the word over the character's image and, if correct, it disappears."

These ideas represent just a few ways to use the IWB. See the Good Practice videos on the PDST Technology in Education website for more ideas. W: pdsttechnologyineducation.ie

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CPD – options to consider from PDST Technology in Education



Halloween themed ICT courses

Many education centres are running short (2.5 hour) courses on creating ICT resources for Halloween. These courses are free of charge, being fully funded by PDST Technology in Education (formerly NCTE). Contact your local education centre for their course schedule or see the link below for all centres' schedules. Centres respond to local demand, so please contact them if you don't see something of interest.

W: pdsttechnologyineducation.ie/courseschedule

TeacherCPD.ie

Following huge demand for last summer's online course on 'Using your Interactive Whiteboard to Support Literacy', a shorter version of the course will be offered on TeacherCPD.ie this autumn. This course covers skills common to most brands of IWBs. Other short courses will also be offered, such as Wikis and More for Learning. A Scoilnet Account is needed for enrolment in TeacherCPD.ie courses.

W: teacherCPD.ie

Scoilnet account

The Scoilnet, TeacherCPD.ie and Service Desk teams of PDST Technology in Education work together to provide an easy course enrolment service for TeacherCPD.ie online courses. If you haven't already got a Scoilnet Account, why not register now? You will be granted free access to a range of online services, such as Scoilnet Maps, and will be prepared for quick enrolment in TeacherCPD.ie courses.

W: accounts.scoilnet.ie/registration