Make Your List and Check It Twice

Selecting Educational Apps

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“Educators should be more intentional and selective about the apps they use to ensure students are exposed to high-quality tools that maximize learning experiences for all parties involved”

Ross Cooper and Kerry Gallagher
The Reality

- How many Formative Assessment tools do you use?
- What are they used for (engagement, remediation, assessment, practice, simulations, collaboration)?
- Who uses the data?
- Where is the data?
- Who owns the data?
The Purpose

- Technology to support learning needs, styles and preferences
- Instant data to inform teaching and learning
- Student engagement
- Adaptive Learning
- Any time learning
- Accessibility and collaboration
- Multi-language learning capabilities
- Students as creators
The Questions

1. What content do we want students to learn?
2. What skills will our students build or refine when they use this app?
3. Will our students be consumers or creators when they use this app?
4. What are my students’ needs, and can this app meet them?
5. Is there a better app that achieves the same purpose?
6. If paid, is there a comparable/better app at a cheaper price?
7. Is there an app on your devices that already does the same thing?
8. Does the app promote our school and district “best practices”?
9. Did we read the app terms and privacy policy?
Apps to address various lesson stages and student needs

Examples:
Nearpod - small group/independent work
Kahoot - quick check/exit ticket
ABCYa.com - reading fluency
bubbl.us - mind mapping/thinking skills
StudyStack - drill
vocabulary.com.com - improve vocabulary

Task - 5 min
Share your example here: https://www.menti.com/6361a1
or answer the question on Twitter (dbidulescu)
Where to find them?

Sites that can be used to locate relevant apps:

- Common Sense Media - [https://www.graphite.org](https://www.graphite.org)


- State and national EdTech organizations like TCEA (TX)
The Task (20 min):

- Identify your campus/class need (reading fluency, math, pbl, etc)
- Browse Common Sense Media and EdSurge apps by grade level and content
- Create a short list with the apps you find that best serve your school program
- From the list, identify one app from each site that would meet the criteria you indicated.
What data is collected by the apps?

- Academic data (grades, etc)
- Navigation data (location, time spent, clicks, device, etc)
- Personally Identifiable Information (name, DOB, special needs, email, photo, etc)
- Behavioral data (preferences, searches, etc)
Relevant data questions

- Does the app show improvement of student learning?
- If email is required can the teacher set one up?
- Is student work copyrighted?
- Can the data be retrieved?
- Can students opt out of data collection?
The Task (30 min):

Select an app. Locate the Privacy Policy for one website. Skim the policy:

- Can the user have to create an account before being able to view the policy?
- Is the privacy policy easy to locate?
- Is the policy easy to read?
- Does the app disclose or share the information collected with third parties?
- Can data be exported as a CSV?
- How long does the app retain the data?
- Are social features available to users identified as under age 13?
- Is any social / feedback features monitored?
- Can students see ads?
- Can users opt out of seeing ads in the educational version?
Reflection

- Which is more important - academic relevance, or engagement?
- When can we continue to use a “good app” with inadequate student data privacy?
- Who should rate apps?
- What is the most important reason to use apps?
QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK

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http://bit.ly/1zbhnTj