

Reflection

(Minimum of 3-4 sentences per question)

1. Briefly describe the field experience. What did you learn about technology coaching and technology leadership from completing this field experience?

I met with my niece, a 9-year old struggling reader. We met for three days while she was visiting my in-laws. I introduced her to a text to speech (TTS) software and the e-Book program. I learned that assistive technology can greatly improve the outlook students have on completing everyday tasks that they are struggling with. She was struggling to pass her Reading Counts tests, and because of the help of the TTS software we hope to be able to steadily improve her scores. I learned that having a good understanding of the technology you are trying to implement is extremely important as my niece had many questions at the start of the field experience. It is important to be understanding and patient when trying to help someone become comfortable with using technology.

2. How did this learning relate to the knowledge (what must you know), skills (what must you be able to do) and dispositions (attitudes, beliefs, enthusiasm) required of a technology facilitator or technology leader? (Refer to the standards you selected above. Use the language of the PSC standards in your answer and reflect on all 3—knowledge, skills, and dispositions.)

Knowledge - I had to know what type of program would best suit a struggling reader and how to perform basic troubleshooting as needed. It was also important that I knew which assistive technology would benefit this student and how best to implement these technologies with her. It was also important that during this experience I continually reflected on how it was going, how the student was performing and how to adapt as needed.

Skills - It was essential that I modeled how the programs should be used so the student could understand how best to use the program. It was essential that she felt comfortable using this technology in her class (if she chooses) so she does not feel singled out or embarrassed about the AT.

Dispositions - This field experience showed me that it is essential to have a positive outlook on using AT within the classroom. I was excited to show my niece this software and I feel because of this, she was excited to try it out too. While using the AT, she used a variety of the features to best suit her individual needs. It is important as a technology leader that I understand not all students use technology the same way, and as long as they are using it to best serve their individual needs and achieve their individual goals, then it is a positive thing.

3. Describe how this field experience impacted school improvement, faculty development or student learning at your school. How can the impact be assessed?

This field experience impacted school improvement by allowing a student to access the TTS software and e-book program that many students are unaware of. By introducing this software to this student and her parents, they can now share it with others which in turn will make more use of the programs. Both student and parent expressed how happy they were that they found something to help them read and to hopefully improve their test scores. I am confident that as more people continue to use these technologies scores will continue to rise. The impact can be assessed by looking at Reading counts scores over time.