

Digital Divide

As an educator, I often find myself forgetting about a child's access to technology at home. Most of the projects my students do are completed in class. As Barron, Walter, Martin, and Schatz (2009) summarized, students who create and put a personal effort into a project using technology will gain technological fluency. There is a concern with this. Are children who come from less affluent backgrounds given the opportunities to build technological fluency?

As I was reviewing the article, Barron, Walter, Martin, and Schatz (2009) suggest children are not always getting the opportunities to build this fluency. What can we as educators do? It is important to get to know your students. Many times some students slip through the radar because they are quiet and well behaved. It is important to give each student equal opportunity on all assignments. Additionally, incorporating many different types of technology into the classroom is essential. This exposes students to different things and peaks their interests. Finally, research assignments and projects before assigning them. Try to incorporate aspects of differentiation and technology to help build students interest and technological fluency.

While it is virtually impossible to provide all children with every type of technology at home, it is not at school. Children need to be exposed and educated to various types of technology and how to use it. Since using computers, smartphones, and iPads are the way of the world now, it has become part of our job to help our students become better educated with these devices.

Resources

Barron, B., Walter, S. E., Martin, K. K., & Schatz, C. (2009). Predictors of creative computing participation and profiles of experience in two silicon valley middle schools. *Elsevier*, (54), 178-189. Retrieved from https://kennesaw.view.usg.edu/d2l/lms/content/viewer/main_frame.d2l?ou=344434&tId=859259