Name: **Ervin Colston**

Title: **Software Assignment**

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to provide you an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to locate and evaluate drill and practice, tutorial, instructional game, problem solving and simulation software packages.

Overview: Your assignment is to use the attached template to evaluate 5 of the provided software titles. You will also locate and evaluate 5 additional titles (one from each category), using the same template. Instructions for completing, saving and submitting the assignment are provided below. Please read them carefully. The grading criteria are provided at the end of this document.

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Software Evaluation Matrix

, Sight Words Buddy - 1.1 Pre-Primer (DEMO) - Third Grade levels (Drill and Practice) –(Based on limited information)

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
Teaching strategies	Teaching Sight Words With text, pictures, repetition, and games				
Educational value	Sight Words comprise approximately 50 to 70 percent of general, non-technical reading material.				
Readability		Clear and colorful			
Ease of use		Easy and fun			

		(colorful illustrations)			
Graphics		Cartoon like graphics			
Sounds	Clear and concise				
Diversity			English only		
Technical support			None - Freeware		

Sight word acquisition is an important building block in the construction of a child's ability to read. Students need to recognize words quickly when they are reading. This program helps students learn to recognize and spell the most frequently used words in the English language. A student can spend more time to decoding difficult words if they have a strong vocabulary of sight words. After my evaluation of Sight Words Buddy, I believe using this program to teach these skills will be very beneficial. Therefore, I recommend this (freeware) software .

More info:

Software Requirements:

  No special requirements
This software is designed to run on the following operating systems:
Windows XP, Windows
Sight Words Buddy Keywords:
Download Link of Sight Words Buddy 1.1:
        Sight Words Buddy - 1.1 (File Size: 3.2 MB)

Get Ahead Math – Grade 3 - Tutorial–(Based on limited information)

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
Teaching strategies	Experimentation,				

	Questioning, Repetition, Virtual Manipulatives				
Educational value	Develop an understanding and competently use fractions.				
Readability		Clear text on screen			
Ease of use	Point and click video				
Graphics	Clear and realistic				
Sounds	Clear and easy to understand				
Diversity					
Technical support	Via phone, email, fax, FAQ				

Get Ahead Math is a supplemental intervention software program that helps students master the key fundamentals from grades 3 through 8, including Algebra I. it is aligned with both state and national standards, the program features award-winning instructors, guided practice and real-time assessment. Many teacher from the elementary and secondary level have endorsed this program. The teaching strategies that include experimentation, questioning, repetition, and virtual manipulative that mirror that of a standard classroom. This is a very good program to teach students of the 21st century. Therefore I recommend this program.

More info

The Digital Frog 2.5 (CD Rom)– Grade 6-College – Instructional Games–(Based on limited information) http://www.digitalfrog.com/

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
Teaching strategies	Interaction, Experimentation, Questioning, Repetition, Dissection				
Educational value	Adaptation to geology through life science				
Readability					
Ease of use					
Graphics		Full-screen video: Every step of the dissection is clearly illustrated with full-screen video to reinforce what they have just done. Or they can even act as a guide for a wet dissection.			
Sounds	Digital quality sound				
Diversity	Supports all cultures				
Technical support	Via phone and email				

The DigitalFrog 2.5 software program supports the life science curriculum in many states an comes on a hybrid disc—(the same disc runs on both Macintosh and Windows platforms.) It covers frog dissection, anatomy, ecology and comparison. The simulations are very good. The Dissection module allows students to perform an entire frog dissection. They can make cuts with a "digital scalpel" and then see the actual cuts with full-screen videos. And unlike a real dissection, mistakes are easily corrected. The $155 (educational version) or $85 (home version). Network pricing is available also. Although this program has a lot of good features I would not

recommend it. I believe there are other more cost efficient programs on the market that could provide comparable results at a fraction of the cost.

Peanuts: It's The Big Game Charlie Brown – Grades 2-7–(Based on limited information)- http://www.superkids.com/

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
Teaching strategies		Your student will be required to use their logical-mathematical intelligence and visual-spatial intelligence			
Educational value			Your child will learn the rules of baseball and see a simulated game in action.		
Readability		Large clear, colorful fonts			
Ease of use		Self-explanatory			
Graphics			The graphics are not that good and seem to be outdated.		
Sounds			Simulated crowd noise		
Diversity			English Only		

Technical support		Phone: (212) 431-4420 Fax: (212) 431-4537 Support: (877) 848-6520			

I would not recommend this software. The educational value of teaching children to play baseball in my opinion is minimal. The graphics and sounds are fair at best. The game has two main phases: The first is a quasi-adventure/life-simulation game (think Myst meets The Sims, devoid of their detail and populated by sarcastic, big-headed children), in which Charlie Brown must recruit players for his baseball team; the second is the baseball game itself (think Major League Baseball videogames on Valium). There are many free programs on the internet that are better.