

*"The only thing that stands between a man and what he
wants from life is often merely the will to try it and the
faith to believe that it is possible." -Richard M. DeVos*



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These past few years have been a real journey for me. I have grown and learned so much in the area of Special Education and as a teacher in general. It is extremely important to me to be the best that I can, so that I can support my students effectively.

I came into this technology course both excited and with a little trepidation. I knew I had some knowledge of technology, but I also knew that I was far from being adept. This course has turned out to be one of the most enlightening and useful courses that I have taken. I was not prepared for the amazing tools that are out there, many of them free, to help support our struggling learners. This course has been exciting, stimulating, awe inspiring, stressful, frustrating, and overwhelming all rolled into one. I have come home from each session so keyed up and keen to try some of the things that I have learned, that I could barely contain myself. (My husband could not calm me either. He suggested I needed a hot bath/wine or both).

When I began my Wiki, I had huge expectations of what I could accomplish. I wanted to organized everything I have learned in Special Education on one site, so that I and others could access it anywhere, anytime; I wanted to include my Special Education students so that I could provide useful tools for them to use independently; and I wanted to include all of the technology that I have learned about, so that anyone could utilize it with their students.

When I tried to piece together my action plan, I realized that my intentions were too big, and that I was setting myself up for failure. I needed to slow down and take one step at a time. I had set the foundation for what I wanted to accomplish, but now I needed to focus on one goal at a time. And so I have endeavored to break my goals down and begin with one achievable goal complete with a plan of action.

**Goal 1:** Become completely familiar with and efficient at using the technology purchased by our school, (Kurzweill, Clicker 5, Classroom Suite, Boardmaker), to help our struggling learners experience success.

Action Plan:

1. Kurzweill
2. Clicker 5/Classroom Suite
3. Boardmaker

**Goal 2:** Use my wiki to help my Special Needs students gain some independence in their learning and have fun with it

Action Plan:

1. Set up student (Julia) with her own page containing different tools to help her work on her skills independently (In progress).
2. Work with student (Julia) so that she may become independent at using the page. (In progress).
3. Monitor student (Julia’s) progress.
4. Change the page periodically to keep it interesting.
5. Add more students

**Goal 3:** Use my wiki to organize and keep all my Special Education Knowledge so that I have it with me whenever I need it and share it with others.

1. Set up initial wiki (done)
2. Add information to it on a regular basis (in progress)

**Goal 4:** Continue to grow and learn so that I can support my students in the best way possible.

**Goal 1:** Become completely familiar with and efficient at using the technology purchased by our school, (Kurzweill, Clicker 5, Classroom Suite, Boardmaker), to help our struggling learners experience success.

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| ACTION PLAN ITEM | ACTION STEPS | TIMELINE | RESOURCES USED | STATUS OF PROGRESS |
| 1 KURZWEILL | Review tutorial | June 30/2010 | Online class wiki |  |
|  | Investigate and scan any materials needed on Kurzweil for next year | June 30/2010 | Next year’s teacher and materials usedARC BC | In Progress |
|  | Weekly check with teacher to assess need for further material/support student | Sept/2010 | Classroom materialsARC BC | In Progress |
| 2 Clicker 5 | Review tutorial and practice using Clicker 5 on my laptop | June 30/2010 | Clicker 5/wiki | In Progress |
|  | Set up 1 student and practice using Clicker 5 together (weekly) | Sept 30/2010 | Clicker 5Curriculum SET |  |
|  | Take group of struggling students and use Clicker 5 to enhanced their learning (weekly) | Dec/2010 | Clicker 5LA LabCurriculum SET |  |
| 3 Classroom Suite | Review tutorial and practice using Classroom Suite on my laptop |  | Classroom Suite/wiki | Awaiting Installation |
| 4 Boardmaker | Review tutorial and practice using Boardmaker in Computer Lab | Dec/2010 | Boardmaker/wikiPicture SETCurriculum SET |  |
|  | Practice by assembling some materials that may be useful for students | Dec/2010 | BoardmakerPicture SETCurriculum SET |  |
|  | Weekly check- ins with EA’s to offer support/materials | Dec/2010 | BoardmakerPicture SETCurriculum SET |  |