Pixton Practices Handout
Special Needs

For Use With Pixton PowerUp Webinar

Best Practice #1: Social Narratives

Prep

To create a personalized social narrative, identify an area of need for a student. The area of need should be a social situation in which the student struggles with expectations. By using Pixton, you can create a comic character that resembles the student and other individuals that they will be in contact with. There are many settings and scenes that can be created in Pixton to ensure that a social narrative can be in nearly any environment.

Activity

Recreate the situation in which the student needs help, and present the problem followed by panels that indicate the appropriate behavior or dialogue in that setting. Ensure that you have provided an antecedent to the targeted situation. These personalized social narratives can also be used to indicate potential natural consequences of not following expectations.

PowerUp Variations

A variation of this is to have students create these social stories. These can be created with assistance or independently. This helps students to have a more engaged role in their learning and gives students the ability to offer input to responses or antecedents instead of having them decided solely by adults.

Differentiation

Peer-to-Peer: By allowing a peer to help students create a social narrative, it becomes more powerful than if it is only led by adults. The student who is assisting in the creation of a social narrative would have to be carefully selected in order to truly help and guide, rather than hinder.

Class Presentations: Students can assist in creating a comic to share with their class. In this comic, students can introduce themselves, share the needs they have, and share how they want to be included.

Home Connection: Pixton can also be used to create social narratives at home. This can be useful in teaching parents how to use the same tool at home as students use at school. In addition, social narratives created on Pixton can also be sent home for parents to utilize.

Best Practice #2: Alternative Writing Assessments

Prep

Pixton can be used to assess students' writing abilities if an alternative assignment is needed. A Pixton comic can be used in narrative, informational, or opinion writing. Take a writing assessment and break down which parts are necessary for a student to show mastery. Pixton offers a rubric to help you assess your students' work. The rubric can be used as designed from Pixton or as a starting point for your own that better fits your students.

Activity

Allow students to write using comics as a tool. Students can practice writing on Pixton using captions or speech bubbles. By being able to demonstrate meaning in the panel using characters or props, students are better able to describe their understanding in writing. Students can more easily break apart their writing by using panels to separate ideas.

PowerUp Variations

If your students are able to continue writing, Pixton has the option to put a caption box in the center of a panel that can hold up to 400 characters. This means that students are able to write complete sentences or possibly even a paragraph. The difficulty of the task can be increased to suit your students' needs and academic skills.

Differentiation

Voice-to-Text: Students are able to use voice-to-text in the software to insert their writing without having to type. This allows for students who struggle with fine motor skills to also engage with Pixton.

Text-to-Speech: There is an option for text to be read aloud to students. After typing, they can click the speaker button and the text will be read aloud in the character's voice.

Planning: Pixton is a great tool to use for planning writing. By using visual images in a comic, students are better able to recall and expand on their ideas as they write. Pixton offers many graphic organizers that students can use to map out their writing before beginning.

Best Practice #3: Personalized Visual Schedule

Prep

In order to create a personalized visual schedule, gather the student's class schedule, teachers' names, and any specialized services the student receives. Pixton can be used to create personalized characters that look like each service provider or the student themselves. Visual schedules can have the times listed if appropriate to the age of the student.

Activity

Visual schedules are helpful in reducing anxiety for a student about their day. By using Pixton, those visual schedules can be tailored to the student and personalized with a character that represents them. Create a student's visual schedule with Pixton by using a personalized character and a wide range of settings. Ensure the schedule's panels are put in chronological order. Each block of time can have its own setting and characters. In addition to the student's character, each individual service provider can also have a character in order to serve as a visual reminder of who the student will be seeing during each time panel.

PowerUp Variations

Changes in schedule can cause students to feel a lot of anxiety. In order to help alleviate this, create a panel that indicates a change in their schedule. If possible, have the student assist in creating the panel in Pixton so they can feel more in control of the change and less stressed by it.

Differentiation

Reflection Sheet: Pixton can be used to help a student reflect upon their day or on an event that happened that day. By having students create a visual of what happened, they are better able to discuss and process what happened.

Choice Board: Choice boards can be helpful by offering different options that are available for students. Using Pixton, you can create a personalized choice board with the students' characters that give a visual representation of their choices for that time.

Associated Research

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