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Interactive White Board & Education

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ABSTRACT

In our fast-paced tech-driven world, capturing the hearts of children is a challenge. Keeping their attention is an even bigger challenge. The best teaching is an art and a science. Educators are integrating technology in the classroom with amazing results. In this paper the author has tried to discuss the concept of IWB in teaching learning process and also discuss the ways interactive whiteboards how enhance classroom teaching learning process.

Key Word : IWB, Technology, Teaching, Learning

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Introduction

Interactive whiteboards (also known as smart boards) can be described as instructional tools which allow for computer images to be accurately displayed a board with the help of a digital projector. The elements on the board can then be manipulated by the instructor using a mouse, stylus, pen or his finger and this is done directly done on the screen. It allows items to be clicked, dragged, copied and even the handwriting of notes is possible. The handwriting can then be easily transformed to text before being saved. The board is usually mounted onto a wall or even to a floor stand. It can be used in work places as well as in classrooms of different levels of learning.

The education system has experienced tremendous changes in the past few years as the traditional heavy textbooks are being replaced by convenient eBooks while notebooks are replaced by devices such as interactive whiteboards, Tablets and iPads. Today, there are many **uses of interactive whiteboard in education**. The main ways on the use of whiteboard in teaching are as outlined below:

Display

Interactive whiteboard in the classroom can be used by educators to improve the presentation content. This can easily be achieved by developing an array of material into a lesson e.g. a picture from the internet, text derived from a Microsoft Word file, graphs from spreadsheets and teacher and student annotations on the objects. Interactive whiteboards are used in display because they engage students far better compared to chalk boards or even the conventional projector-screen and whiteboards combination.

Record Lessons

One of the uses of interactive whiteboard in education is to record lessons. Interactive whiteboards have software such as the top notch video conferencing software -ezTalks Meetings which allows users to take notes and create presentations. Educators can use this feature to record their notes and lesson activities. Teachers can also encourage students to come up so that they can jot down few works that can be saved for purposes of future reference. In addition, the teacher can later print the saved works and publish them for their students. Several interactive whiteboards softwares comprise of screen recording tools that educators can use to capture and provide previous lessons to students whenever necessary.

Resources

Using interactive whiteboards in the classroom is encouraged because there are many flash files available on the internet that can be used by teachers and lecturers to deliver effective lessons. The use of such resources is beneficial in education as it functions to save both effort and time while enhancing learning outcomes.

Sharing Resource

The use of whiteboard in teaching allows the computer to become some sort of shared resource. This eliminates crowding or jostling of students around a small screen in an attempt to observe a demonstration by a teacher. This means that the interactive whiteboard can enable students to easily access material from the comfort of their seats.

Learning Styles

Among the top uses of interactive whiteboard in education is to successfully accommodate the different learning styles. This is because recording tools can be utilized for audio learners, the board can be touched and manipulated by tactile learners and visual learners can easily track whatever that is happening as a lesson proceeds. Facilitating the different learning styles is a superb way of demonstrating the use of whiteboard in teaching.

Internet Access

Using interactive whiteboards in the classroom allows for the immediate access to all the content that the internet has to provide. This is beneficial because queries can be answered instantly through a Google search as audio, video and images are all easily accessible.

Interactivity

The use of interactive whiteboard in the classroom allows pupils to actively engage with material, receive instant feedback on current projects and to manipulate learning objects. It enables the lecturer to sit at the computer with a student at the whiteboard and the class contributing ideas and offering suggestions. It basically promotes interactive teaching.

Preservation

One of the uses of interactive whiteboard in education that is usually taken for granted is its capability to preserve lessons, notes and discussions. Such material can easily be accessed afterwards. Saving concepts and ideas that had been extensively covered in a previous lesson means that students can easily access the content so as to refresh their knowledge. Furthermore, students who were absent when the lessons were covered for one reason or the other can get an opportunity to access the material to go through what was previously covered.

Games

Games is also a way of how to use a whiteboard in classroom. Education via games such as rearranging jumbled texts/ objects or drag and match is possible. This is mostly applicable for the education of very young students. The games can be properly prepared and varied by the teacher so that they are effective.

Emphasis

Interactive whiteboards have different patterns that can be used to lay emphasis on a single word or even group of words. It uses movements and color among other techniques to do this. Furthermore, the distractive part of the interactive whiteboard's screen has an effective hideaway feature.

Group Interaction

Interactive whiteboard in the classroom is perfect for the purpose of group participation and discussion. It is a highly effective tool for brainstorming because notes that are made on the screen can be transformed into text and consequently saved for later sharing and distribution. It is an ideal when collaborative learning and a small group work is being aimed at. This can be achieved by students huddling around the board as they develop bright ideas, the work can then be saved for sharing via email or over a network. A good example of a software that encourages group interaction is the video conferencing software -ezTalks Meetings. The

above points do not exhaust how to use a whiteboard in classroom as they are limitless but one thing is very clear, using interactive whiteboards in the classroom is a necessity.

Using Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom

Interactive whiteboards allow educators to take standard lessons and turn them into interactive activities. Kids have fun while they learn. Interactive whiteboards like the **Sharp Aquos Board** are replacing overhead projectors in classrooms across the nation. Here are 7 reasons why:

Benefits of Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom

1) Enhanced Lessons

Interactive whiteboards integrate various learning styles into one experience. Students can learn by seeing, hearing, and interacting with the board through touch. This equips teachers with new, innovative ways to teach the same subject material. Because of this, students learn better and remember more.

2) Interactive Learning

Interactive whiteboards allow children to interact with the learning material. They become a part of the lesson and can even teach each other. Their understanding of the subject is seen through touching, drawing, or writing on the board. Educational games can be played by entire classrooms. They also provide immediate feedback, so students and teachers can easily assess student progress.

3) Easy to Use

Interactive whiteboards are clean and require very low maintenance. No chalk or markers or other writing utensils needed. Data is modified using a specialized pen for highlighting, drawing, and writing. Therefore there is no mess. No cleanup. It's just that easy.

4) Flexibility in the Classroom

Various media types can be displayed on an interactive whiteboard. Whether photos, graphs, maps, illustrations, or videos- teachers have an abundance of options. You can create creative lessons to inspire your students.

5) Connected to the Internet

Interactive whiteboards are connected to the internet which gives you a resource of online tools and information. Teachers have access to various sources to enhance and support their lessons with video, articles, images, learning tools, and more. Students also have a rich resource for research and learning.

6) Integrated Technology

Interactive whiteboard technology allows for the integration of various other technologies to enhance student learning. Any device you can think of like computers, microscopes, cameras, and video cameras can be attached to the boards to enhance instruction. As a result, the possibilities are near endless.

7) Proven Effectiveness

Students are more attentive in the classroom. Comprehension improves. Test scores rise. Literacy increases. Students learn better and remember it. When children engage more in the classroom, learning always increases.

Conclusion

The interactive whiteboard in the classroom is a cost saver as the technology demonstrates how a single computer can provide an appropriate learning stimulus for an entire classroom. It is also more cost effective compared to equipping every student with a laptop or even an entire IT room. The flexibility it brings to education is why it is common in primary schools and universities all over the world. All the above insightful information comprehensively shows how to use a whiteboard in classroom. Teaching is one of the most challenging yet rewarding endeavors you could undertake. Having the right tools in your toolkit always makes the biggest difference, especially in the classroom. Equip your classrooms for success. Consider interactive whiteboards like the Sharp Aquos Board in the classroom for your school this year.

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