**Reflection Process for Practicum Activities for the**

**Educational Diagnostician Program Academic Portfolio**

by B. Polnick and D. Reed

Adapted from The Principal Portfolio, 2nd Edition (2000) by G. Brown and B. Irby

Artifact: 001.2. Review 5 recent (not more than 3 years old) special education articles and document their findings using the Article Reflection Process**. Include the article with the reflection. (completed in EDSP 6345) See References for Articles.**

The first article that I reviewed was, *Enhancing Learning with the Use of Assistive Technology for Children on the Autism Spectrum* (Fang, 2012). This article is the research of children with autism and the used of iPads to support their communication and its effectiveness with language arts.

Describe: Describe the findings for all of the activities.

 Assistive technology benefits students with disabilities in many ways. The findings of this type of research described positive benefits for children with autism in improving their learning and independence when they became introduced to the iPads.

Analyze: a. Describe the importance of the findings for the activities.

 I found this article very interesting because I do not have any experience with Autistic children despite working in the general education field for ten years and currently doing an internship that allows me to interact with children with disabilities. It is very important for me to learn about the different types of disabilities in the field in order to gain knowledge about this type of disabilities.

b. Include connections to your 5 year goals or desired position.

My 5 year goal is to become very knowledgeable as educational diagnostician. Therefore, this article supports my goal as I have gained some experience in the field. Assistive technology is undeniably making the difference in the lives of many students. This article was very helpful because it was very detailed about how to recognized children with autism in simple terms. So, this information will be useful to review if in the future when I have to identify a child with Autism.

c. Compare/contrast elements in your findings to your experiences or previous knowledge.

I did not have any experience with Autism nor did I know how to identify a child with this disorder. Yet the article, it was very through and gave examples of how other researchers have found ways to improve their ability to imitate and at the same time improve their verbal skills by using assistive technology.

Appraise: Critique or describe whether any of your findings were beneficial to you or not.

 My findings were very beneficial as I came to learn more about children with autism, their characteristics, and how their modalities of learning. The iPad in general is a very engaging tool. I can see how this device can be effective to help and encourage students with autism learn and overcome challenges.

Transform: a. Describe any future ideas or insights you gained.

 Assistive technology can be a crucial element when trying to improve the quality of education for a child with autism. I think the iPad is an excellent tool for learning provided the right guidance and application.

b. Describe future plans for use of the ideas presented, including any changes in your current practices or, describe how the information confirmed your current practices and/or beliefs.

 Like I mentioned earlier, I did not have a background in Special Education. I have gained more knowledge as I read this article and believe that this information is helpful not only for the for the findings about the iPads but because it gave a through explanation of the characteristics with children with disabilities.

c. Describe future plans for use of the ideas presented, including any changes in your current practices or, describe how the information confirmed your current practices and/or beliefs.

In the future, I will include recommendations of the use of assistive technology to support the skill deficits in many students in special education. This article confirms my believe that in the future assistive technology will play a crucial role in the lives of many students.

**References**

Fan, T. (2012). Enhancing Learning with the Use of Assistive Technology for Children on the Autism Spectrum. Online Submission,

<http://www.eric.ed.gov/contentdelivery/servlet/ERICServlet?accno=ED531866>