Sara Olsen

READ 634 Linguistic Foundations of Reading Instruct.

This class gave me many opportunities to collaborate with my peers. I greatly appreciate this because it provides me with more opportunities to collaborate with them day to day. I was able to build a stronger rapport with them which now allows me to be able to reach out to them with any questions, not necessarily strictly about this class. The ability to have more connections in the teaching world is very beneficial. Other schools have a plethora of great ideas and I enjoy bringing them to my classroom to test out and potentially implement.

The project we collaborated on was about reading and writing strategies for ELL students. These tools are great to use in my classroom as well with students on IEPs. One tool I find very useful for my students is audiobooks. Audiobooks allow them to listen to a fluent reader, gain information for comprehension without having to focus on decoding words, build vocabulary, and can help students’ ability to go back and re-read. I encourage my students to have the physical copy of the book in their hands at the same time. If they aren’t following along at the same time, they won’t be able to build their reading skills as much.

Another tool we use in the classroom is graphic organizers. These are a tool that can help all students in the classroom. In regard to ELL students, graphic organizers help break down a story to see each and every component. This helps students make the connections to the story. Building time into a student’s day to silent read can help them become lifelong readers.

This course gave me many great tools to use in the classroom. Learning about the history of the English language is very interesting to me. The language has gone through many changes and many different influences. English is a very difficult language for students to learn but with the tools and resources available, it can be easier for students to learn in the classroom.