

Exploring Digital Resources: My Classroom Adventure

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EDLD 5303 – Applying Educational Technology

Dr. Harrison

June 22, 2025

ClassDojo

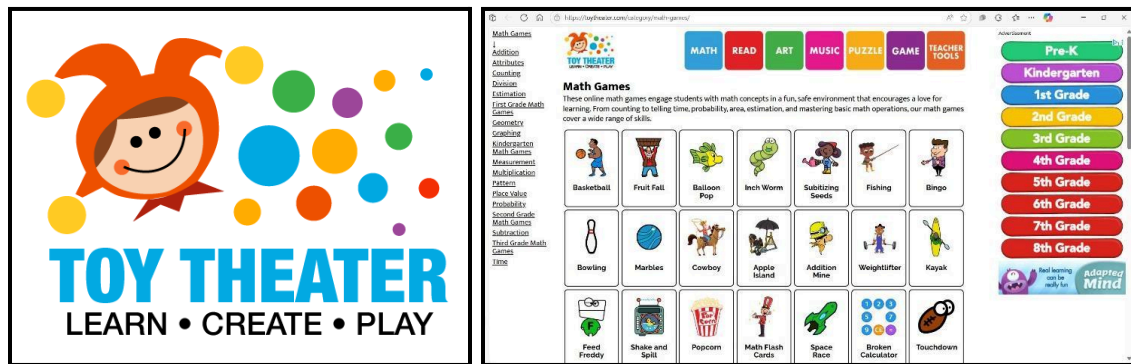


During summer school, I decided to explore ClassDojo for the first time as a communication and motivation tool in my kindergarten classroom. I began by downloading the app and setting up my class with student names, personalized avatars, and family invitations through codes or links. Once everyone was connected, I used the point system to reinforce positive behaviors like participation, respect, and responsibility. I also used the "Stories" feature to share daily photos and videos, which created an immediate connection with families. One clear advantage was how easily parents could stay informed in real time, which strengthened school-family communication. Another benefit was how motivated students became when they saw their points on screen and felt proud of receiving positive feedback. A disadvantage in my context is that some families may not check the app frequently or face language barriers, requiring additional follow-up. I also noticed that if not used with intentionality, the tool could become a simple point-based reward system. Still, ClassDojo helped foster a more connected and participatory classroom community. Even the quietest students began to try harder, knowing their efforts were being shared with their families. I plan to use it strategically next school year by setting weekly goals and group celebrations. I also want to use the

student portfolio feature to share their work. According to Jones (2023), tools like ClassDojo promote family engagement and socio-emotional learning when integrated with educational purpose. This first experience was enriching and left me motivated to keep exploring ways to personalize its use in the classroom.

Note: This tool is free to use with optional premium features.

Toy Theater

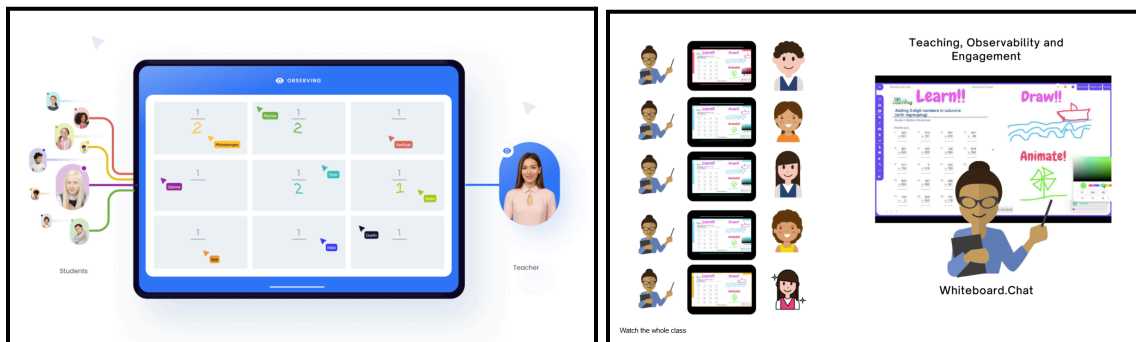


Exploring Toy Theater was a fun and enriching experience, especially because I was looking for a tool I could easily incorporate into my kindergarten math centers. I accessed the website without needing to create an account, which made immediate use possible. I reviewed the different categories like math, art, and logic games. Then I used "Math Manipulatives" such as base ten blocks, the abacus, and ten frames. During a summer lesson, I projected the "Spinner" to work on addition problems using digital dice. One great advantage is its simple, colorful interface, which appeals to young children and is entirely ad-free. Another advantage is the wide variety of educational games that require no downloads or logins, making it ideal for independent centers. A disadvantage is that some games lack clear instructions or sound, which can be challenging for non-readers. Also, many games are in English, which could be a barrier for my bilingual

students if not guided. Still, the site offers valuable resources for counting, patterns, and number concepts through play. Students were so excited that they asked to repeat activities and helped each other navigate the games. I found it particularly useful for fostering independence during tech centers. In the future, I plan to create QR cards that link directly to specific games. According to Papert (1993), meaningful learning happens when students build knowledge through digital exploration—and Toy Theater fits that philosophy perfectly.

Note: This platform offers a free version, which was sufficient for my classroom use.

Whiteboard.chat



Whiteboard.chat was one of the most surprising tools due to its versatility and potential for collaborative learning in early childhood. I accessed the platform and created a free teacher account. I could immediately start a blank board and share it with students using a link or code—no login required for them. I explored widgets like drag-and-drop tokens, number lines, digital dice, and templates. I created a board with syllables and another with object counting and shared them during a tech center. A big advantage is being able to view each student's board individually, allowing me to give personalized feedback and monitor progress. Whiteboard.chat also allows audio instructions and typed text, which is excellent for non-readers. Another strength is the

hands-on interaction, which simulates a real whiteboard. A disadvantage is that the interface can be overwhelming at first, especially for teachers new to tech. I also noticed some lag if the internet connection isn't strong. Once familiar, though, I could tailor templates to match my lesson goals. I used it for number sequences, word dictation, and real-time comprehension checks. This tool helped me create a more dynamic classroom. According to Mishra & Koehler (2006), effective tech integration combines pedagogy, content, and technology—and this tool allowed me to reach that balance.

Note: This platform offers a free version, which was sufficient for my classroom use.

Notion

Course Schedule

This course schedule provides a thorough list of weekly topics, readings, assignments, and exams. Click **All** to switch to week, exam, or calendar view.

Schedule All ▾

Name	Dates	Type	Topic	
Week 1	September 16, 2019 → September 20, 2019	Lesson	Pre-revolution	
Week 2	September 23, 2019 → September 27, 2019	Lesson	Pre-revolution	
Week 3	September 30, 2019 → October 4, 2019	Lesson	Pre-revolution	
Essay #1	October 2, 2019	Assignment	Pre-revolution	
Midterm #1	October 17, 2019	Exam	American Revolution Pre-revolution	

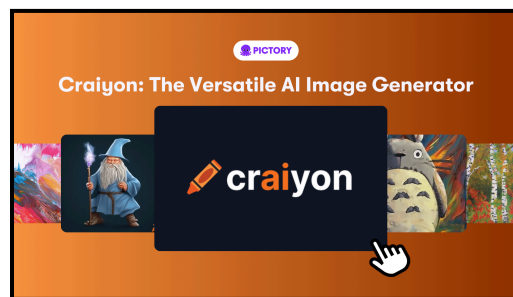
COUNT 8

Discovering Notion felt like unlocking a world of personalized organization. Although it initially seemed designed for professionals or college students, I quickly saw how it could help me organize progress reports, observations, and documents as a

kindergarten teacher. I created a free account with my school email and explored available templates. I built a page called "Progress Reports" with tables to track each student's growth in math, science, and behavior. I also added checklists and weekly notes. One of the most helpful advantages was the ability to link pages and keep everything centralized. Another strength is being able to add images, links, and even audio, which allowed me to keep student work samples as learning evidence. A disadvantage is that Notion is only in English and requires a learning curve to understand its blocks system. Also, it's not made specifically for early childhood education, so it needs to be creatively adapted. Even so, it helped me reduce paper use and stay organized during summer school. I plan to use it to track student progress, incidents, milestones, and family notes. Another idea is to use Notion as a digital teacher portfolio. According to Thomas (2022), digital productivity tools like Notion help teachers reduce stress and focus more on meaningful instruction. This experience showed me that even non-kid-focused tools can be powerful in the hands of a strategic educator.

Note: This tool is free to use with optional premium features.

Craiyn



Craiyn was the only artificial intelligence tool I included in my exploration. I chose it because of its ability to generate images from text—perfect for enhancing presentations and storytelling in my kindergarten class. I accessed the website without

creating an account and typed prompts like "a happy dog in a kindergarten classroom" or "a rocket made of crayons." In seconds, Craiyon generated nine different images for each phrase. Some were clear and usable, others quirky but still fun. I used these images in an end-of-year digital slideshow where each child saw an illustration based on a phrase they invented. One clear advantage is how quickly it generates unique visuals, which helps foster creativity. Another strength is that images are royalty-free and can be used freely in class presentations. Students were thrilled to see their ideas come to life on screen. A disadvantage is that some images can look confusing or distorted, so careful selection is needed. Also, the tool is in English and requires a good description to get useful results. Still, it helped me visualize science concepts like the water cycle or the solar system with happy faces. I plan to use it for story illustrations, classroom visuals, and digital rewards. According to Mayer (2009), multimedia learning improves understanding when images, audio, and text are combined—and Craiyon allowed me to do that with engaging and original visuals.

Note: This application requires a subscription, but offers a limited free trial.

Edupal



Edupal was a pleasant surprise in my digital tool exploration. It's designed for educators seeking accessible and practical classroom strategies. I discovered it while looking for ways to support social-emotional learning and classroom management. I registered for free and accessed a collection of strategy cards, activity ideas, affirmations, and positive routines. I tested the "Strategy Cards" function, starting the day with students using "Mirror Affirmations" and "Breathe and Count." These helped calm and focus them before class. A great advantage is that Edupal categorizes its resources by strategy type, grade level, and purpose (like emotional regulation or participation). Each card includes clear steps and tips for immediate use. One disadvantage is that most content is in English, which could be a barrier for some teachers or non-English-speaking families. Also, not all strategies are contextualized for multicultural or bilingual settings. I translated and adapted several of them into our daily routines. I noticed improvement in students' self-regulation, especially those with attention challenges or anxiety. I shared Edupal with a colleague and we implemented a weekly strategy rotation. I plan to keep using it during morning meetings and in our calm corner. According to CASEL (2023),

consistent SEL practices improve school climate and academic outcomes—and Edupal supports that goal beautifully.

Note: This platform offers a free version, which was sufficient for my classroom use.

Final Reflection

Exploring these six digital tools has been an eye-opening experience. What began as a summer experiment quickly turned into a journey of discovery, creativity, and renewed purpose in my classroom. Each tool gave me new insights—not just into how technology works, but how it can be used with intention to empower even the youngest learners. From encouraging communication with families through ClassDojo to supporting emotional regulation with Edupal, every platform added something meaningful to my teaching toolbox.

As a bilingual kindergarten teacher, I often face the challenge of balancing language, engagement, and developmentally appropriate strategies. These tools helped me bridge those gaps by offering visual support, interactive learning, and new ways to stay organized. I especially appreciated how easily I could integrate technology into student routines without losing the joy and spontaneity of early childhood education.

This project reminded me that digital tools are not just for “older” students—they can transform early learning environments when paired with care and creativity. I now feel more confident entering the next school year with a clear plan to make technology purposeful and accessible. Most of all, I am excited to keep exploring. This is just the beginning.

These past weeks have been essential in preparing this project, as experimenting with these tools in my summer school classroom gave me a clearer vision of how I want to implement them in the upcoming school year. Throughout this process, I also relied on digital support to help me structure my reflections and clarify my writing. All experiences and evaluations presented here come from my own classroom testing and teaching practice.

Access and Pricing Overview

Tool	Free Version Available?	Notes
ClassDojo	Yes	Full access for teachers and families
Toy Theater	Yes	Completely free, no login required
whiteboard.chat	Yes	Free version includes full features
Notion	Yes	Free for individual use; education plan available
Edupal	Yes	Free beta access, still in development
craiyn	Yes	Free with ads; paid version removes limits

References

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