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S4 E21: Getting Ready for Season 5

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Transcript

Lisa Dieker

Welcome to Practical Access. I'm Lisa Dieker.

Rebecca Hines

And I'm Rebecca Hines, and I'm really excited about this episode, Lisa, because I know you're going to be kicking off our structure for the summer. And I'm excited for our listeners to get this sneak preview. So, share with us what today's topic is.

Lisa Dieker

Well, do you want me to tell you the topic or the structure? Where should we start?

Rebecca Hines

I want you to tell the topic. This is the sneak preview lady.

Lisa Dieker

Ok, so this is very sneaky. All right, I got it. Well, I have an article today from the Learning Disabilities Research and practice. And people are like gasp they're going into theory. We don't even know how to do that, do we Becky? This is an article by Rosenberg Adler. And yet what's interesting is they found that kids who have handwriting disability, that it is a mixed bag and so I love the fact that they found it's a nice research study that if students had handwriting difficulties, many were good at keyboarding, but there was a subgroup that handwriting difficulties and keyboarding were equally difficult and again, one of the suggestions was to think about either maybe more typing classes for those kids to see if that would bring it up, or maybe more speech to text, giving the kids the chance to talk instead of assuming, and so I just really thought it was one that I was like, oh I've been guilty of saying give them a keyboard. And so that's what I think this season's going to be about is giving something simple practical from research. And if you want to read more again, it's in the learning disabilities research and practice and this volume is from 2020.

Rebecca Hines

So, this new summer format, Lisa, contains several elements, the one you just demonstrated. We will be putting together basically a little light reading list of easy-to-read articles. Some of them are going to be research based like Lisa just mentioned and some like to say are just ripped from the headlines. She hates it when I say that.

Lisa Dieker

I think that's plagiarism just so know.

Rebecca Hines

I am going to be looking for specific articles, whether they're just online teacher tips. That really gets to the heart of what I think are some problems that teachers face, and that might give them some ideas specifically for going into the next school year. I'm not trying to make people read a full-on course reading list, although it could be integrated into course work. I'm trying to find some things that are easily consumable and then have an action item so Lisa in that context tell me if you're using your handwriting article as an example, what's my go to as a teacher? What am I going to do in the fall based on what you're going to share with us in that article.

Lisa Dieker

Well, I think what I love about it is it made me really quickly think about as I work and coach some teachers is you know, what do a little assessment of your class, who's keyboarding deficient? Do they also have an IEP goal for handwriting? And if so, I'd be calling my OT first and say hey I have a kid keyboarding is a struggle. I would also have a little group of keyboarding games. That maybe could work on fluency with that student to see if it's just, you know, is it really a fine motor skill or is it just they just don't have the keyboarding habit? And then I think you also can do what we see some schools doing which have rearranged the keyboard to do, you know, in letter format ABC in order. But if you do that, be careful, a lot of the keyboards I'm seeing are all lower case and remember for a lot of our students here, dyslexic lower-case letters, the b,d,p, and q all look alike and that is the beauty of the keyboard. It does take away that directionality of letters, so you might want to think of an overlay that would be all capital letters, so again, lots of things. You know Google Chrome many of them are lower case, so those are some of my go-to like to do a little assessment of your classroom or walk through and have kids type. What was it? The Brown dog jumped over the lazy fence. You remember having to type that in typing class, but all your first graders type that and then say, oh my gosh, this kid is so low is keyboarding the right concept or do I need to adapt that and modify and let them start to talk to type, which I think is an easy tool to use. Sounds really complicated. Ask the first grader. They'll figure it out on their own.

Rebecca Hines

And I'm going to extend on that and say that our mission between now and when we release our topics, we'll be first to also find a very specific example of a tool that any teacher could use for free online, so that all of our listeners are left with literally a new little suite of tools, tricks for the upcoming school year.

Lisa Dieker

Got it and so our format is for those who are constant listeners, we do have a great following of some consistent listeners. So, we thank you for listening to our wonderful fun and rambling at time. So, what we do want to let you know is we'll be launching this starting in June, we're going to take a little hiatus ourselves as Becky (Rebecca Hines) sends a couple of twins away, getting them ready for college, and we'll start this in June. It'll be twice a week in June and July. So, for those of you who might be using this for course content, there will be 16 kinds of things like we just talked about ripped from the headlines or research article. And so, an opportunity to consider how you might want to use those, or if you just are a parent or a person who wants to listen in, it will be a great resource for you. So, Becky, you want to wrap us up today?

Rebecca Hines

Sure, Lisa. I'm going to kind of end with a suggestion, she loves it when I make changes on the spot. I would really love to still hear from our listeners. So, I think that if listeners have specific topics or questions, it's not too late to get those to us so we can look at what kind of focus people might be interested in. And I'm hoping, Lisa, that we can still do some feature comments throughout the summer so that we can speak directly to our listeners.

Lisa Dieker

Yeah, so please let us know (407)-900-9305 or you can leave us a message on Facebook or on our Twitter at @AccessPractical, thanks.