Effects of iPad on the Learning of Addition for Students with Learning Disabilities

Choo Pee Ling Lin Mingli Joyce

Abstract

This study aims to examine the effects of iPad on the learning of addition for students with learning disabilities. Prior to the twelve-week study, six students from the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) Katong School, who were in module three for Mathematics, were identified as the participants for the Study Group. After a period of direct instruction by their Mathematics teacher, these students were required to compute 10 two-digit by two-digit addition sums using the app 'Math Board' on the iPad. Following that, they also had to compute another 10 two-digit by two-digit addition sums using paper and pen. The scores and timings for the completion of each of the 2 tasks were recorded by the teacher for data analysis. Results of the study revealed that iPads, which provide visual and interactive touch-based learning, can contribute to improvements in the motivation and the level of task-orientation in the learning of addition for students with learning disabilities. This in turn can aid the learning of addition for these students.