USING ABRA & EPEARL TOGETHER
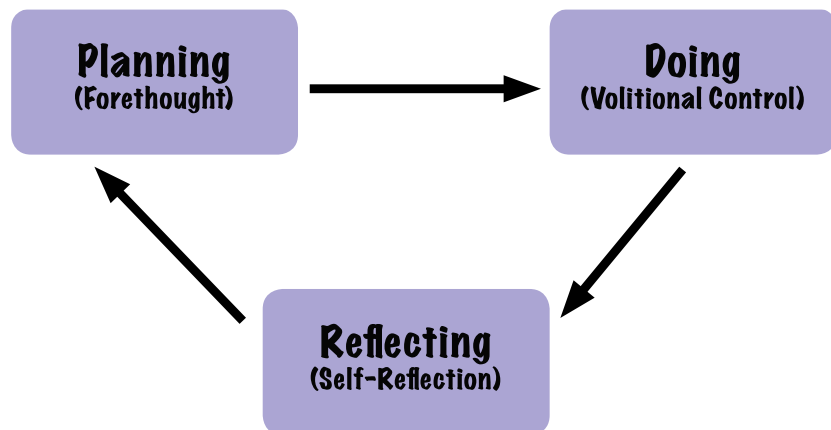
Including ePERL in your Classroom

WHAT IS EPEARL?

ePEARL is a web-based electronic portfolio software that has been designed to encourage self-regulated learning by supporting learners as they set goals, develop and monitor strategies to accomplish tasks, and reflect on their learning.

ePEARL is best suited for educators who wish to use electronic portfolios in a learner-centered way, but who also wish to experiment with multimedia content and a collaborative approach. ePEARL's features encourage planning, reflection, sharing and peer feedback, in addition to the creation and revision of work.

WHAT IS SELF-REGULATED LEARNING?

There are three main processes that will help learners build self-regulatory skills: Forethought (Planning), Performance (Doing), and Self-Reflection (Reflecting). This is a cyclical process where learners move back and forth between the steps. Developing these self-directed, lifelong learning skills will help learners succeed in a classroom environment, as well as throughout their lives in a variety of contexts and tasks.

Planning (Forethought) → Doing (Volitional Control) → Reflecting (Self-Reflection)

ABRACADABRA and ePEARL can be used together to facilitate learners' literacy skills as well as their self-regulated learning. When using ABRA, learners access ePEARL by clicking on its icon:

When they do so, they'll be brought to the welcome page in their portfolios. Teachers can also go to learner portfolios by first visiting "My Students" in the LTK+'s Manage section, and then clicking the portfolio icon next to their learner's name.

Using ABRACADABRA with ePEARL
ABRA-ePEARL ACTIVITIES

READING

Over 20 digital stories are available in both ABRA and ePEARL. Each book may be viewed and read from within either program. When reading in ePEARL, learners can record themselves reading. The recording allows them, a teacher, or a parent to monitor and track reading development. Listening to one's own reading is proven to be an extremely effective tool for self-monitoring and consequently learning.

WRITING AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

In ePEARL, learners can also practice their creative writing skills in the My Creations area. Here, teachers can encourage their learners to write a new ending to a story or to imagine new characters. Learners can also upload images and pictures of drawings (in response to an ABRA story, for example).

LEARNER ASSESSMENT

By implementing the ABRA- ePEARL link, teachers can track their learners' literacy development. For example, teachers can use ePEARL for assessment purposes when doing the following ABRA activities:

- Accuracy
- Comprehension Monitoring
- Expression
- Predicting
- Sequencing
- Speed
- Spelling Words
- Spelling Sentences
- Summarizing
- Vocabulary

Within ePEARL

MY READINGS

In the *My Readings* section, the software encourages recognition of the different components of a book, such as the book's title and author. Learners may also enter the illustrator's name and the classmate they are reading with. Each entry is automatically date stamped. Learners are also encouraged to set small task goals for an individual reading.

Recording a Reading

A recorder is provided for recording reading samples. This allows learners, teachers and parents to track reading development over time. Additionally, up to three files (e.g. a scanned picture of the cover) may be uploaded.

MY CREATIONS

In the *My Creations* section, learners are encouraged to employ many different skills in their work, including numeracy, writing and arts. Learners are introduced to basic word processing commands through the use of a text editor. When commencing work on a new piece, learners are required to give the piece a title. Each entry is automatically date stamped. Learners are also encouraged to set a small task goal for their work, as this promotes self-regulated learning. Learners may also include samples of their handwritten work by scanning and uploading files.

Reflections

Learners may select a question designed to help them think about their work process, strategies they used and the skills that they have acquired or need to develop. Learners may choose from pre-set questions or learners/teachers may add their own questions. Multiple questions may be selected. Reflections may be typed or written/drawn and scanned in.

PROVIDING FEEDBACK

Teachers, parents and peers can all provide feedback on the ePEARL artifacts. It is important to remind learners to always leave positive and constructive feedback for their peers.