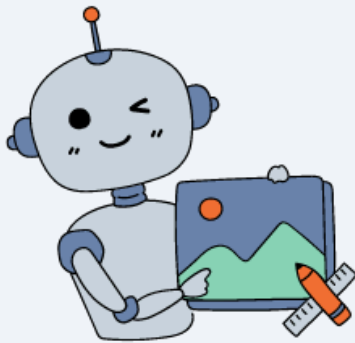


SmartStart Newsletter

Latest news from the SmartStart Teacher Academy



smart start

ERASMUS+
Teacher Academy

Project Updates

Get Ready for Porto! SmartStart Teacher Academy's 2nd International Meeting is Here!

The excitement is building as the University of Porto team puts the finishing touches on arrangements for the 2nd International Meeting of the SmartStart Erasmus+ Teacher Academy! Get ready to mark your calendars for December 4th and 5th, as we convene at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of the University of Porto. This pivotal gathering will unite over 20 partners from seven collaborating countries for two days of innovation and collaboration.

Research Insight

Tai, T. Y., & Chen, H. H. J.. Navigating elementary EFL speaking skills with generative AI chatbots: Exploring individual and paired interactions. *Computers & Education*, 220, 105112.

Available at:

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.09582>

Did you know?

AI chatbots like CoolE Bot can boost kids' English speaking skills! In a study with 85 elementary EFL (English as a foreign language) learners, those who practiced with CoolE Bot—whether alone or in pairs—showed significant improvement compared to traditional classes.

Learners loved the bot's friendly voice, fun topics, and human-like chats, which made speaking English more enjoyable and less stressful.

AI + learning = confidence + fun!

Note: The study had a small sample size, so results should be interpreted with caution.

Contact the Project Office
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
(Ostenstr. 26)
Temporary address: Hofgarten 1
85072 Eichstätt
Germany

We are social!





What awaits us in Porto?

Partners will dive deep into the progress of our crucial literature review and the formation of the project's Expert Panel, both spearheaded by the University of Porto. Expect a dynamic series of talks featuring insightful perspectives from teachers, school coordinators, and leading AI experts. A highlight will be a vibrant roundtable discussion with representatives from three Portuguese school clusters, sharing their invaluable experiences with AI integration in primary education. Plus, don't miss Alexandre Torres on Thursday, speaking on smart education, and Cláudia Meirinhos on Friday, presenting her academic work on AI in Portuguese primary education.

This meeting is more than just an update; it's a prime opportunity to discuss the incredible work achieved, strategically plan our next steps, and rebrand ideas for the future of AI in education. It promises to be an exciting and inspiring event you won't want to miss!

SmartStart selected as a flagship project in the upcoming DAAD Teacher Academies brochure

We are proud to announce that *SmartStart Erasmus+ Teacher Academy* has been chosen by the DAAD as a best-practice example in its new European cooperation brochure. This distinction underlines SmartStart's strong innovative profile and its relevance for the future of teacher education.

The selection highlights three key strengths of the project:

- Its pioneering approach to AI in primary education, particularly the integration of intelligent tools to support individual learning and multilingual classrooms.
- Its European dimension, bringing together universities, schools, and educational partners from across the continent – supported by the innovative “Babylon” translation tool.
- Its transferability and scalability, offering a training model that can be easily implemented, expanded, and embedded in European teacher-education curricula.

Being featured by the DAAD is a clear recognition of SmartStart's potential to shape Europe's educational landscape — a true accolade for our consortium and the vision behind the project.

In a nutshell:

The prototype of the AI translation tool Babylon is almost complete (WP 2).

A short promotional film about the project is currently being shot (WP 7).

Spotlight on Innovation

Suggestive tool: *Magic School* - youtube video introducing Magic School:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xavxmp8cLLI>

What is Magic School AI?

Magic School AI is a robust platform equipped with over 60 AI tools to significantly streamline educators' workflows. It assists with diverse tasks such as lesson planning, student assessments, personalized content creation, and administrative duties, integrating seamlessly with existing classroom systems. This platform aims to reduce time spent on repetitive tasks, allowing teachers to focus more on instruction and student engagement.

Similarly, the concept of automation in education, as explored in "Ask AI," highlights how intelligent systems are integrating into daily teaching to balance instruction. By managing planning, generating educational content, and streamlining administration, these tools operate in the background, enabling educators to prioritize student interaction, provide real-time feedback, and enhance instructional clarity in both digital and traditional classroom environments.

Unlock Your Teaching Potential with Magic School AI: A Quick Start Guide!

Ready to transform your teaching workflow? Magic School AI makes it simple to manage your classroom with powerful AI tools.

Here's how to get started:

1. **Easy Access:** Sign up and log in securely from any device. No installation needed—just instant access to organize tasks, lesson plans, and assessments.
2. **Intuitive Dashboard:** Navigate effortlessly through your central hub. The dashboard allows quick switching between tools to manage lessons, create quizzes, and monitor student progress with ease.
3. **Smart Lesson Planning:** Generate comprehensive, standards-aligned lesson plans in seconds by simply inputting subject details, grade level, and objectives. Cut down prep time and boost instructional consistency!
4. **Effortless Assessments:** Create quizzes, assignments, and formative assessments with multiple question formats and automatic scoring. Customize for student levels to track understanding effectively.
5. **Refine & Share:** Easily review, revise, and export your AI-generated content in Word, PDF, or digital formats, ensuring seamless integration into your curriculum.
6. **Real-time Teaching Support:** Get AI-powered instructional suggestions, from pacing guidance to engagement tips, helping you adapt in real time and focus on student needs.
7. **Professional Growth:** Access additional tools like AI certification, analytics dashboards, and performance reports to support your professional development and track long-term progress.

Magic School AI streamlines your daily tasks, allowing you to dedicate more time to what truly matters: engaging and inspiring your students!

Pros

- A simple, user-friendly interface helps teachers navigate tools quickly and without confusion.
- Includes 60+ tools for lesson planning, student evaluation, and real-time instructional support.
- Customizable content for various grade levels, learning speeds, and student needs.
- Supports multilingual content generation for inclusive teaching in diverse classrooms.
- Works with both remote and in-person setups, ensuring seamless instructional transitions.
- Works with both remote and in-person setups, ensuring seamless instructional transitions.
- Enhances classroom flow and boosts teaching productivity.

Cons

- Needs a reliable internet connection, limiting offline usability.
- Some tools require a learning curve for new users.
- The free plan has limited features and may not meet all classroom demands.
- Generated content may need manual editing to align with specific goals.
- May not fully integrate with all school platforms or LMS systems.
- Lacks a mobile version, reducing access for on-the-go teachers.



Training & Events

Online Conference “Digitality and AI in Contexts of Heterogeneity” - PH Schwäbisch-Gmünd

Friday, 05.12.2025, 3 pm

ZOOM-Link:

<https://eu02web.zoom-x.de/j/2092733276>

JProf. Dr. Taha Kuzu & Andrea Kratzer (PH Freiburg/ FuN-Kolleg):

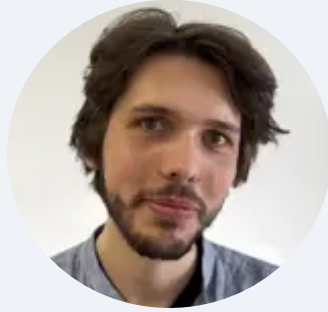
Empowering Pre-Service Language Teachers: Catering to Heterogeneity in the Primary School Through Digitally-Mediated Language Learning Tasks Panel
language: Englisch

PD Dr. Canan Cengiz & Dr. Maşide Güler (Trabzon University):

The Effect of Artificial Intelligence-Supported Content Design in Laboratory Practices Course on Pre-Service Science Teachers' Attitudes towards AI and Their AI Literacy

Classroom Insights

Sebastian Köppl
Doctoral student and
elementary school
teacher



Self-regulated learning (SRL) is one of the key competencies for achieving the goal of lifelong learning (EU Council, 2002). It encompasses the ability to set one's own learning goals, select strategies, monitor learning progress, and reflect on one's own work. These skills can be specifically supported and learned, especially at primary school age, for example, using weekly plans, portfolios, or learning diaries. AI-based assistants are also increasingly opening up new ways to support these processes. Used correctly, they not only offer technical assistance but can also enable individualized learning support and promote independent work.

Phase 1: Planning

Clarify learning goals and create structure

The first phase of SRL is about children consciously deciding what they want to learn and how they want to proceed. AI assistants can facilitate this process by working with simple questions, specifying goals, and making learning steps visible.

"I want to do a presentation on forests."

AI asks:

- "Would you like to know how a presentation is structured? Shall I briefly show you which parts you need (introduction – main section – conclusion)?"

- "Which part of the forest would you like to talk about? Trees, animals, mushrooms, or something else? What do you find most exciting?"
- If the child chooses "animals": "Which animal would you like to talk about? Foxes, deer, squirrels – or another animal that lives in the forest? How can you find out if your animal lives in the forest?"

Through targeted questions, suitable examples, or SMART goal aids, you can translate learning desires into clear, achievable goals. Depending on the design, you can incorporate the children's prior knowledge and learning habits.

Phase 2: Implementation

Accompany, support, motivate

AI assistants can analyze interim results, provide feedback, and offer motivational encouragement. AI recognizes patterns, draws attention to missing elements, and directs focus to the learning material, individually and in a timely manner.

- "Now you need information about the fox. Where could you find out about the fox? Write down the most important things so you can use them later."

"I have a few sentences, but I don't know if that's enough."

AI asks:

- "Should I give you three questions to check?"
- "Did you explain what the fox looks like?"
- "Did you explain what the fox eats?"
- "Did you explain where it lives?"

"I'm not sure how to proceed."

AI asks:

- "What kind of help would be best for you right now?"
 - How to formulate key points in a presentation?
 - A step-by-step explanation
 - Or would you like to summarize what you already have first?

Child loses focus: *"I don't know what to do anymore."*

AI asks:

- "No problem. Choose one small step:"
 - Answer the question
 - Check the information
 - Work on the design
- "Which one feels doable right now?"

AI is particularly helpful in open, creative task formats. Many children benefit from structuring complex procedures, dividing them into small steps, or providing brief motivational aids that maintain the flow of learning.

Phase 3: Reflection

Making learning visible

At the end of a learning process, AI supports reflection. It can identify recurring errors, omissions, or strengths and provide structured feedback.

Targeted reflection questions or short summaries help learners to think about their learning path. This type of feedback promotes metacognitive skills, i.e., the ability to observe and control one's own learning.

On this basis, children can develop new goals and further adapt strategies. The learning process is thus not only completed, but consciously continued.

"I've finished my presentation."

AI asks:

- "Would you like to check your presentation yourself? I'll give you three questions that might help."
 - What did you do particularly well?
 - Is there any part that you could explain in more detail?
 - Did you answer everything you set out to do at the beginning?

"I'm satisfied."

AI asks:

- "Great! Would you like to set a new goal for your next presentation? I'd be happy to help you with that."
 - "What would you like to do differently in your next presentation?"
 - "Was there anything that was difficult for you this time?"
 - "What helped you the most while you were working?"

Opportunities and limitations

AI-based learning opens up new opportunities for individualization, immediate feedback, and motivation. At the same time, it requires conscious implementation and clear educational guidelines. Teachers need to address opportunities and limitations, for example with regard to data protection, excessive demands, hallucinations, or the quality of suggestions.

Initial study results show that learners with less experience in self-directed learning benefit particularly from this type of support (Han et al., 2025).

References:

EU Council (2002). Council Resolution of 27 June 2002 on Lifelong Learning. *Official Journal of the European Communities*, July 9, 2002.

Han, I., Ji, H., Jin, S. & Choi, K. (2025). Mobile-based artificial intelligence chatbot for self-regulated learning in a hybrid flipped classroom. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12528-025-09434-8>