Ten Ideas for Using iMovie at the Lower Elementary Level

Will you want to use iMovie every week? Probably not. It will come in very handy for many tasks.

1. **Use it for assessment.** Film or photograph students at work. Ask students to tell you what they know about a subject. (You can record voices in iMovie.) Not only will you have more time to see the skills of students, but so will their families.

2. **Create an instruction video.** For example if students have to measure using a ruler, you could create a quick movie showing them how. The advantage is that kids may use your resource independently and/or when they need it.

3. **Ask students to create one small part of a movie.** For example, if students are studying biomes, they could each draw one in KidPix and save it as a JPG. (This task would take a little step-by-step coaching from the teacher.) When the pictures are completed, each student can take turns adding their picture to the class movie.

4. If you only have one or a few computers with iMovie, **use your management tricks to smooth the way**. For example, using the **Navigator model** and cooperative learning, you can pull student-experts to learn iMovie skills while the rest of the class is completing other work for the project like planning or brainstorming or storyboarding. Navigator model roles include:

   > **Navigator:** Learns the technology, but may NOT touch the mouse when working with the group.

   > **Driver:** Uses the technology with assistance from Navigator. Rotates with Backseat Driver.

   > **Backseat Driver:** Similar to driver and will rotate into that role as determined by the group. Coordinates resources for the group.

   > **Information Officer:** Facilitator or teacher

5. **Communicate with parents and families.** There is a great deal you can do with iMovie to show parents and families what is happening in the classroom. Whether it's a video yearbook or slide show, using iMovie means that you can share it with anyone who has a computer. (Exporting movies into Quicktime makes them cross-platform.)

6. **Create a multimedia book.** Ask students to read the story (record it into iMovie) and draw pictures to accompany the story. Or take pictures of students acting out the story and insert those into iMovie. You could use themes or ideas that you are studying such as letters, shapes, biomes, plants, opposites, etc.

7. **Create a time-lapse movie.** Are you growing plants in your classroom? Take a picture every day or every two days. After the plant is grown, put the results into a movie to show students the progress.

8. **Compare and contrast items.** Take pictures of items to compare and contrast. Insert them into iMovie and save the file where students may access it. Kids can add text to show their understanding.

9. **Create a video rebus story.** Use original pictures to insert into your story. The class could work as a large group on a longer story or small groups could create their own. (Original art would be scanned or students could use pictures from the Internet or clipart or KidPix.)

10. **Create a pattern movie.** Students take or draw pictures of patterns (or create them in KidPix). You or a student expert can put them together in a single movie. Show it to the class and ask them to guess the pattern.

11. **Do a play.** Film your students on video or take still shots using the Sony Mavica digital camera.