

SEN Webfolio Presentation**Neil Gordon****(PGCE Technology and Design Student Teacher)****Rationale**

The assignment I will present is part of my assessment profile for the PGCE course at the University of Ulster. It is a Webfolio (e-portfolio in web-based format) and is essentially a 'reflective journal' of my experiences in learning to teach in a special needs context. It is also a record of my professional development in this area. The Webfolio provides a platform on which to document my SEN experiences, primarily the context of teaching but also what I learned from the university seminars and other aspects of my school placements.

Overview

The Webfolio began by setting out my initial action plan...a SWOT analysis or a 'snap shot' of where I was in September with regards to SEN. In it, I set out some personal goals along with other goals set in coordination with my school placement SENCO. In this action plan there is also a list of supporting resources from which I could draw condition-specific material from. A large proportion of the assignment is directed towards two case study pupils (both at stage 5 of the SEN assessment process). I had the opportunity to teach these children during my first PGCE school placement. The two conditions (Moderate Learning Difficulties and Spina Bifida / Hydrocephalus) contrasted greatly and consequently the teaching strategies I used to support their learning differed. I will demonstrate how each case study is presented in the Webfolio initially as a condition overview, then the teaching strategies and resources I used (successful and unsuccessful) to engage these pupils in their learning. The strategies were developed partly to meet short and long term IEP (Individual Education Plan) objectives. Part of the assignment was to focus on one case study in particular and to design a teaching resource that would address and support a particular need or area of difficulty within one area of my subject. I chose to develop a sketching resource targeting the visual perception of the pupil with Spina Bifida / Hydrocephalus and a section of the Webfolio documents three proposed lessons along with teaching resources to facilitate this. The interactivity of the Webfolio allowed me to invite a paediatric occupational therapist to review these proposals and evaluate their effectiveness.

What I am learning?

Aside from the obvious IT skills I am developing whilst constructing the Webfolio, I believe that being able to interactively document my SEN teaching and learning experiences at a micro level served to both scaffold and instruct my own learning in this subject area. I found I became increasingly aware of integration of children with special needs in the rest of my timetabled classes. The assignment also meant I became more departmentally active as it often led to discussions / observations in other subject areas to see how others approached similar aspects of differentiation in an SEN context....thus promoting 'sharing good practice'.

What will I take from the assignment?

I feel that through the assignment I have gained confidence in my own teaching ability in an integrated SEN context. It presented me with a rare opportunity to examine SEN in this increasingly inclusive age as well as allowing me to develop and implement my own teaching and learning strategies in this area. I guess you could say that it has ignited my passion for the subject area and also documented my experiences for prospective employers within this area of education to view.



Figure 1: Illustration of the front page of my e-portfolio

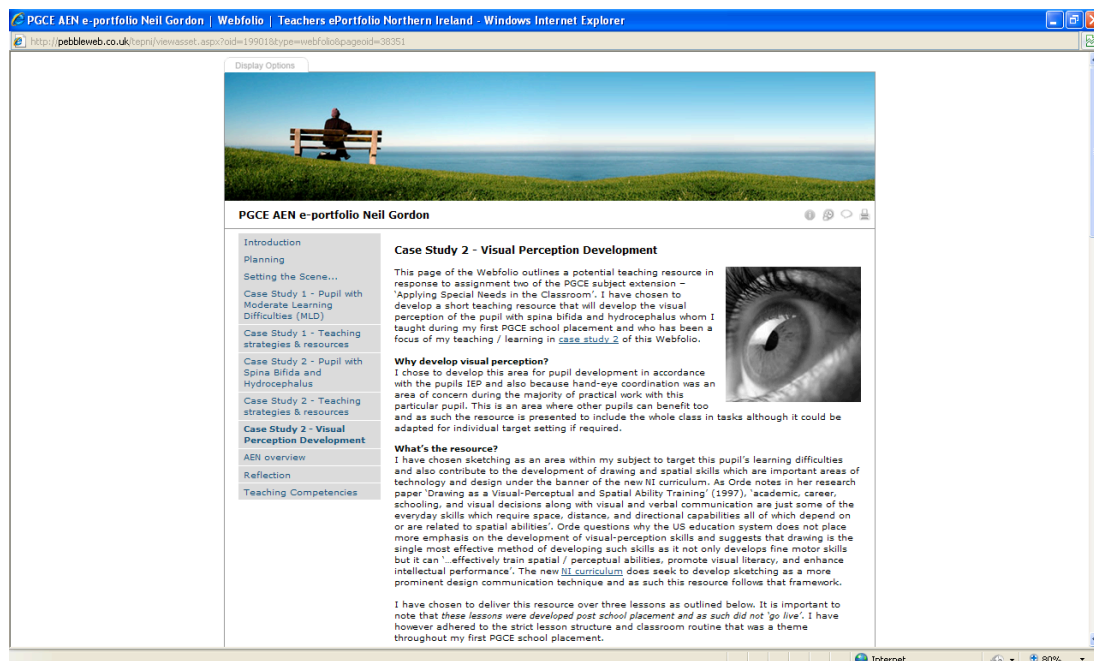


Figure 2: Case study two visual perception development

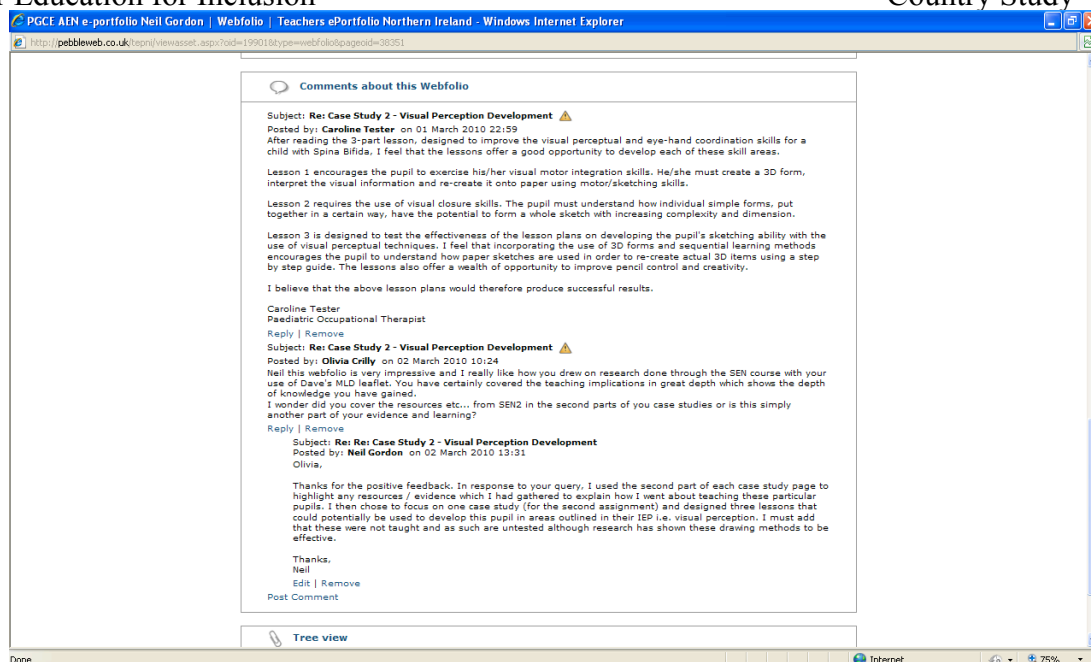


Figure 3: Formative sharing of my e-portfolio – peer feedback

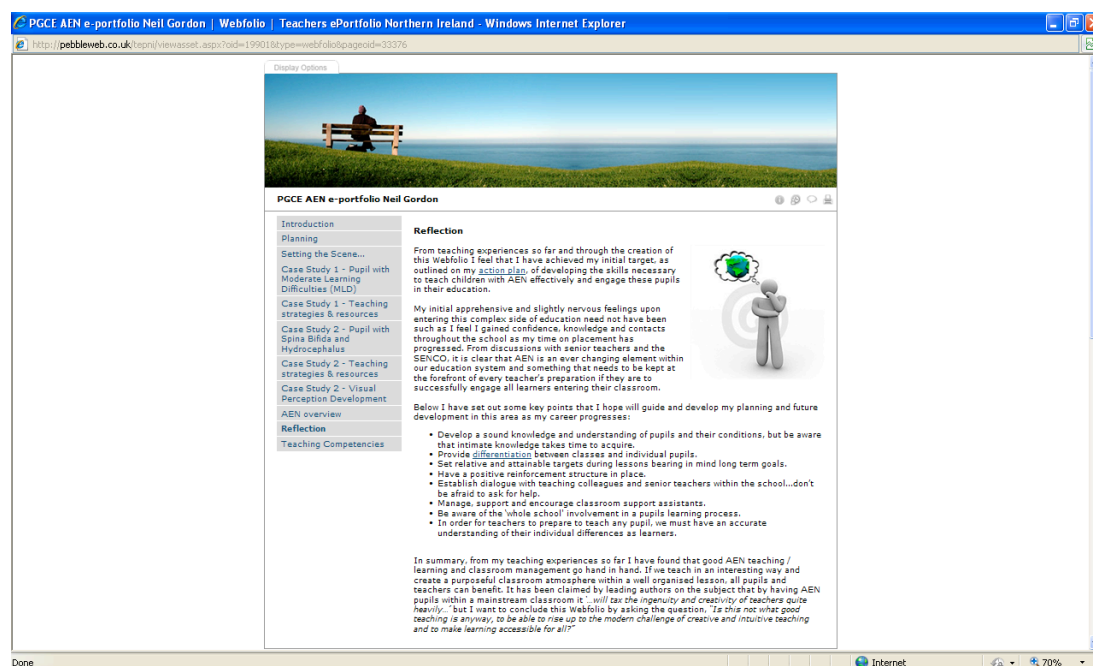


Figure 4: An illustration of my reflections