

Gina Drellack

iPads for Educators Workshop

Northwest Service Co-Op, Thief River Falls, MN

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Hello, my name is Gina, and I've never touched any iStuff.

And so began my iPads for Educators workshop! This whole-day training course was phenomenal. As I removed my new sleek, black iPad2 from its box and plugged it into my notebook, I did a little nervous dance of anticipation in my head—but on the outside I was cool and collected! The instructor guided each and every one of us all to common ground amazingly smoothly. Her pre-class instruction via email and blog post prepared us greatly, and we were able to go very quickly to the meat of the workshop: actually using an iPad2 in the classroom!

I learned how to download apps—and how to find the free ones! I also learned how to sync my iPad2 with my computer iTunes account, and why I'd want to do that. After some basic iPad mechanics instruction (who knew I could swipe to an entire other screen?!? Ohhh...*that's* where my app went!), we jumped right into using the specific app we added and let the rest of the mechanics happen on the fly.

The entire rest of the day was devoted to adding and exploring apps, one at a time. We were led through adding specific apps, all with a direct and helpful use in the classroom—and then we used the app. (The way to learn is to play—remember that!!)

I walked away with an amazement of this use in the classroom. I went from holding an overarching concept of its future possibility, to actually having the tools and the know-how to apply it in the classroom *today*. Additionally, I have the confidence to explore, play, and figure out for myself other classroom uses—I learned how to learn with this, and am no longer hesitant of either the technology or the educational use. This workshop impacted me immensely, both professionally and personally.

Hello, my name is Gina, and I'm a confident, technology learning and using educator!