

Learning analytics to support self-regulated learning in primary school

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Problem and context

Teachers find it hard to help students manage their own learning (self-regulated learning or SRL). SRL involves thinking, planning, motivation and emotions, making it complex. Learning analytics (LA) can show teachers how students are doing, but it often doesn't give clear feedback, especially when students work together.

Implementation (the story)

The study took place at Rantakylä teacher training school in Joensuu, Finland, with 5th and 6th graders. Two study modules were created: 'Space' and 'Sustainable Development' by using the Valamis Learning Management System (LMS).

1. The **Space Module** focused on individual learning. Students set personal goals, tracked their progress, and reflected on their learning. The LMS guided them through the SRL process.
2. The **Sustainable Development Module** focused on group work. Students worked together to create projects and reflected on their teamwork. The LMS tracked their progress, but it was harder for teachers to monitor.

Lessons learned

1. **LA works better for individual learning.** LA helps more when students learn individually. Teachers can easily track progress and help when needed.
2. **Challenges in group work.** LA struggles with group work. Students need more help from teachers, and the LMS data is less clear because students share tasks and use different apps.
3. **Teacher guidance is crucial.** Teachers must help students understand and use LA data. Without this support, students may not fully engage with their data.
4. **Checklists are helpful.** Checklists helped students track their progress and allowed teachers to see which groups needed help.
5. **Future improvements.** Teaching students to understand their data should be a key goal. LA should be integrated into group work with more supportive tasks to help students manage their learning.

This study shows the strengths and weaknesses of LA in primary education and suggests ways to improve its use.



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