For more information

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teach live
at WCSU
Why use TeachLive?

TeachLive provides a safe place to practice and to provide corrective advice (Dieker, et al., 2014) in a simulated learning environment. Rather than teachers having to test out their skills on a real live classroom to assess their strengths and weaknesses, a pre-service, in-service, counseling or leadership candidate can practice repeatedly until mastery is achieved without any harm to human students. Students may move through the avatar-mediated physical environment, shifting closer to the virtual students or addressing them individually or as a whole-group. The avatar-students respond to questions, practice classroom procedures and other management methods, and join in multiple forms of pedagogy at an individual or classroom level approach (Hayes, Hardin, & Hughes, 2013.)

How does it work?

According to Nagendran, et al., (2013) TeachLive is an avatar-mediated teacher training system combining “human-in-the loop approach” [that] combines digital puppetry (Hunter and Maes, 2013; Mapes, et al., 2011) with basic Artificial Intelligence processes. It was originally created in 2008 by an interdisciplinary team of education and computer science faculty at the University of Central Florida (Dieker, et. al, 2008). It uses virtual characters involving a human interactor who controls the personality of the avatars who interact with human students.

“Honestly, it might be the most beneficial teacher education tool I have seen, with the instant feedback and re-teaching opportunities. Universities should invest, and use it with undergrad students. The first predictable classroom (for admin anyway). Also, I think my specific praise dramatically increased today! Thanks for telling me about it and signing me up!”

TeachLive user quote

Who are the TeachLive avatars?

The TeachLive avatars are five virtual students controlled by human interactors. They are available in both middle school ages and high school ages. TeachLive virtual students may communicate in English and may be also be repurposed to represent an ELL classroom. The avatars were programmed according to personality types (see Wong & Li-fang, 2013).

Adult avatars are also available for training. Typically, adult avatars are used in a one-on-one setting such as for practice with a parent-teacher, administrator-teacher, or counselor-parent conference.

Ed is the passive-dependent archetype in the classroom.

Cindy/CJ is the aggressive-independent archetype in the classroom.

Maria is the passive-independent archetype in the classroom.

Sean is the aggressive-dependent archetype in the classroom.

Kevin is the aggressive-dependent archetype in the classroom.