WordPress in the Elementary Classroom

The use of technology in education is growing more and more every day. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate technology into their daily lesson plans. One type of technology that can be incorporated into the classroom is Web 2.0. Some teachers claim that Web 2.0 is applicable only to upper, more advanced classes. This may be the case for some programs; however, it is not the case with WordPress. WordPress can be used for any grade level. All it takes is a little patience and some good guidance.

The teacher can create videos. For example, a teacher can create a video about the alphabet to help teach students basic shapes and sounds of letters. The teacher can incorporate colorful pictures of objects whose names begin with the letter being taught. The teacher can also include sound clips and animations. All of these things help motivate the student learn about the alphabet.

Contrary to some peoples' beliefs, elementary students are capable of blogging. Some teachers claim that students do not have enough computer knowledge to blog. However, if the teacher sets up the blog for them and walks them through it systematically they will find that students are able to blog. It would be easier if the teacher sets up the students' blogs as a journal rather than a conversation, since they are being introduced to the concept of blogging. The teacher can do this by eliminating the commenting features on these blogs.

The descriptions described above have been adapted from: http://mu.worpress.org/forums/topic.php?id=6467

Resources
http://i.usatoday.net/tech/_photos/2007/04/13/jinnyx.jpg

Below is an example lesson plan with Wordpress implemented in an elementary class:
**Journaling in WordPress**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th>By the end of this lesson students will learn how to better express themselves and reflect on familiar objects, person, place, or event through writing. They will also become more familiar with adjectives and verbs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Environment</strong></td>
<td>Each student will be working on their own computer in the school's computer lab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Students</strong></td>
<td>Students will be second graders between the ages of 7 and 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
<td>2.5.1 2.5.2 2.5.5 and 2.6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Materials** | - Computers  
- Worksheet with a list of the parts of speech that are supposed to be identified. This list should also include a brief description of how the students are expected to identify them (i.e. underline, bold, color)  
- WordPress account |
| **Procedure** | 1. Prior to the lesson, teachers should explain what nouns and adjectives are.  
2. Teacher will have to help students log onto WordPress and access their own personal blogs.  
3. Students will then be given 15-20 minutes to free write (journal about whatever they would like). The teacher may also assign a specific topic if he/she wishes to do so.  
4. After students have completed their journaling, they will be given a worksheet with instructions (i.e. go through your journal and underline all of the adjectives and make all of the verbs bold)  
5. After underlining all of the adjectives and making all of the verbs bold, students will then submit their journal. |
| **Evaluation** | The teacher will be able to log onto WordPress and access each student's blog in order to evaluate each student's writing and see if the student has correctly identified all of the adjectives and verbs. |