

Personal Information

- **Name:** Reneva Newman
- **Date:** 28 March 2025
- **Current Role/Position:** Elementary teacher
- **Field of Interest:** Coding and E-learning design

Part 1: Self-Assessment Reflection

1. Skills Analysis:

(a) Current skills and expertise

- Strong communication and instructional skills from teaching.
- Classroom management and adaptability.
- Creativity in lesson planning and engagement strategies.
- Problem-solving and patience when working with students.
- Basic coding knowledge (HTML and Basic CSS).

(b) Skills in need of development/improvement

- Deepening coding proficiency
- Debugging and problem-solving in programming.

2. Interests and Values:

(a) **Key Interests Related to My Career**

- Technology in Education** – I am passionate about integrating technology into learning environments to make education more engaging and effective.
- Coding for Problem-Solving** – I enjoy the logical and creative aspects of coding, particularly in developing solutions that can enhance teaching and learning.
- Lifelong Learning** – As both a teacher and a student, I love expanding my knowledge and applying new skills to different fields.
- Educational App Development** – I am interested in creating tools or software that support students and educators.
- Bridging Teaching & Tech** – I want to explore career opportunities where I can combine my teaching expertise with my growing coding skills.

(b) Values that are important in my personal work environment

-Impact & Purpose – I want my work to contribute positively to education and make a difference in learning experiences.

-Creativity & Innovation – I thrive in environments that encourage new ideas and creative problem-solving.

-Collaboration & Support – Working with a team that values knowledge-sharing and mutual growth is important to me.

-Continuous Learning – I seek opportunities to grow professionally and stay updated with advancements in technology.

-Work-Life Balance – A healthy balance between work and personal life is essential for long-term career satisfaction.

Part 2: Career Exploration Insights

Industries and Roles Explored:

As I transition from teaching into coding, I have researched several industries and roles that combine education and technology, as well as broader software development opportunities. Some key areas that have piqued my interest include:

-Educational Technology (EdTech) – Roles such as instructional designer, e-learning developer, or software engineer for educational platforms.

-Software Development – Entry-level roles such as front-end or back-end developer, with a focus on user-friendly and interactive applications.

-Game Development for Education – Designing engaging, educational games to support student learning.

-Web Development – Creating interactive websites or applications that enhance learning experiences.

-Data Science & Analytics in Education – Using data to improve educational outcomes and personalize learning experiences.

Alignment with Personal Profile:

Many of these roles align well with my existing skills and values:

- Teaching Skills** → Beneficial for designing intuitive and user-friendly learning tools.
- Problem-Solving & Creativity** → Essential in coding and software development.
- Passion for Education** → Strong alignment with EdTech and educational game development.
- Collaboration & Communication** → Useful for working in tech teams and explaining technical concepts.

Part 3: SMART Career Goals

Short-Term Goals (Next 1-2 Years)

Complete Coding Certification

- Specific:** Complete coding program focused on web development.
- Measurable:** Earn a certificate and build at least three portfolio projects that I am proud of.
- Achievable:** Dedicate a set number of hours per week to studying and coding practice.
- Relevant:** Helps bridge the gap between teaching and a tech-related role.
- Time-Bound:** Complete within the next 10-12 months.

Gain Hands-on Experience Through Projects & Internships

- Specific:** Work on real-world projects and secure an internship in tech.
- Measurable:** Contribute to at least three projects, either independently or as part of a team.
- Achievable:** Start with small projects, open-source contributions, or volunteering for EdTech initiatives.
- Relevant:** Practical experience is essential for breaking into the tech industry.
- Time-Bound:** Aim to complete at least one project every five months.

Develop a Professional Online Presence

- Specific:** Build a portfolio showcasing my coding projects and teaching-related tech work.
- Measurable:** Have at least five projects displayed on GitHub or a personal website.
- Achievable:** Use free tools like GitHub Pages and complete Scrimba courses
- Relevant:** Demonstrates my skills to potential employers.

-Time-Bound: Complete within the next 6-12 months.

Long-Term Goals (3-5 Years and Beyond)

Transition Into a Full-Time Tech Role

-Goal: Secure a full-time job as a software developer, EdTech specialist, or educational game designer.

-Alignment: Combines my teaching experience with my passion for coding and problem-solving.

-Steps: Continue learning, networking, and applying for roles that align with my skills.

Develop or Contribute to an Educational Tech Product

-Goal: Work on a tool, app, or platform that improves learning experiences.

-Alignment: Bridges my expertise in education with my growing tech skills.

-Steps: Collaborate with developers, educators, or startups in the EdTech space.

Continue Learning and Growing in Tech

-Goal: Stay updated with new technologies

-Alignment: Maintains my passion for lifelong learning while staying relevant in the tech industry.

-Steps: Take advanced courses, attend workshops, and stay active in coding communities.

Part 4: Action Plan

Steps to Achieve Short-term Goals

Complete Coding Certification at CodeSpace

Actions:

-Dedicate a set study schedule (e.g., 10-15 hours per week).

- Complete assignments, projects, and coding challenges to reinforce learning.

Resources & Support:

- Platforms like Codecademy, freeCodeCamp and Scrimba
- Online coding communities for guidance (e.g., GitHub)
- Mentorship from professionals in tech.

Gain Hands-on Experience Through Projects & Internships**Actions:**

- Build small personal projects (e.g., an interactive learning tool)
- Contribute to open-source projects on GitHub.
- Apply for internships, apprenticeships, or freelance opportunities in tech.

Resources & Support:

- Networking through LinkedIn and tech meetups.
- Online job boards (e.g. Upwork).

Develop a Professional Online Presence**Actions:**

- Create a personal website or portfolio showcasing coding projects.
- Regularly update GitHub with completed projects.
- Document learning progress on LinkedIn.

Resources & Support:

- Website builders like GitHub Pages, Wix, or WordPress.
- LinkedIn to connect with professionals in tech.
- Resume and portfolio review from coding coach

Preparation for Long-term Goals**Transition Into a Full-Time Tech Role**

- Gain professional experience through internships, freelance projects, or part-time roles.
- Strengthen problem-solving skills by practicing coding challenges regularly.
- Build a network of professionals in the tech industry through meetup and LinkedIn
- Learn industry best practices in version control

Develop or Contribute to an Educational Tech Product

- Research existing EdTech platforms to understand market needs.
- Learn UX/UI principles for designing user-friendly learning tools.
- Gain experience with databases and backend development to support interactive applications.
- Consider collaborating with educators or startups working in the EdTech space.

Continue Learning and Growing in Tech

- Stay up to date with emerging technologies through online courses and reading industry blogs.
- Take advanced courses in specialized areas such as AI, data science, or full-stack development.
- Attend workshops, and webinars to improve skills and network with industry professionals.

Part 5: Reflection on Challenges and Opportunities

Anticipated Challenges & Strategies to Overcome Them

Balancing Teaching, Studying, and Personal Life

- Challenge:** Managing time effectively while working as a teacher and learning to code.
- Strategy:** Create a structured schedule with dedicated coding time each week. Use time-blocking techniques and focus on high-impact learning.

Learning Curve in Coding & Software Development

- Challenge:** Understanding complex programming concepts and debugging efficiently.
- Strategy:** Break problems into smaller steps, seek help from coding communities, and engage in hands-on practice through projects.

Gaining Professional Experience Without Prior Tech Background

- Challenge:** Transitioning into a tech role without formal experience.

-Strategy: Build a strong portfolio, contribute to open-source projects, complete freelance work, and apply for internships or apprenticeships.

Imposter Syndrome & Self-Doubt

-Challenge: Feeling like I don't belong in the tech industry or comparing myself to others.

-Strategy: Focus on progress, celebrate small wins, and engage in communities that support career changers in tech.

Opportunities for Growth

Networking & Mentorship

-Connect with tech professionals through LinkedIn, local meetups, and online communities.

-Seek mentorship from experienced developers or career changers who transitioned into tech.

Leveraging My Teaching Background

-Use my experience in education to stand out in EdTech-related roles.

-Explore opportunities to create coding-related teaching resources.

-Look for roles where instructional design and technology intersect.

Continuous Learning & Specialization

-Take advanced courses in specialized areas like full-stack development, UX/UI, or AI in education.

-Stay updated with emerging trends through blogs, podcasts, and webinars.

-Experiment with building real-world applications to strengthen problem-solving skills.

