Title

Design requirements for a BCSS on social skills for children with ASD.

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Abstract

Background:

Social Skills in children (8-12) with Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD) is underdeveloped compared to their respective peers. Learning how to read, recognize emotions, or ask for something; are all skills that deem practice in differing contexts.

The domain of digital applications for children with ASD is ever expanding, as it mixes the favorite pastime of the target audience with a dire developmental goal. However, available literature shows, the results of tested apps are mixed and indicate an overall lack of both practical use and transfer to the everyday life of the child.

While transfer is a proven problem for this target audience, this project has identified potential ways in which the design of a digital application can be better embedded within the life of the child itself. Additionally, it is concurrent with recent findings that a combination of
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interventions shows promising results. It takes these findings and applies them to the design process as well.

Methods & Findings:

A participative design approach was followed wherein domain experts (therapists, trainers, coaches & parents) were involved in focus group discussions, card sorting, dot voting and expert reviews. Through several sessions insights into the design principles of existing practices were gained, to identify the essential requirements. These requirements lead to a set of learning goals that were utilized for the design process of a three-part-structure for a Behavior Change Support System (BCSS) that focuses on improving social skills in gradually more autonomous play environments.

Discussion:

The presentation shows that a complex problem context such as designing for children with ASD requires a different approach. Our findings concur with previous research and add an additional, multi-faceted approach to the design of a BCSS. We expect that this approach will improve design for transfer as the interventions are more closely embedded into the life of the child.
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Preference for oral or poster presentation?

X Oral
0 Poster

Which one of the following topics best describes the topic of your abstract?

0 Positive technology
X Development and evaluation approaches for health technology
0 ePublic Health
0 eMental Health
0 eHealth for chronic care
0 Monitoring & smart coaching (big data)