

INTRO/ABSTRACT

Information Recall for Kids with Autism also known by its product name, Safe Kid, is a mobile application to help children with autism learn contact information: phone numbers, addresses, and names. Safe Kid has been designed for the use of our client Spectrum Behavioral Associates.

METHODS

The problem statement was identified as what combination of visual and auditory cues can most effectively teach and reinforce the three learning outcomes: phone number, address, and name. With a reliance on client feedback and user stories, development began for a local based iOS application.

RESULTS

Through iterative user informed design, we found a colorful yet simplistic design in nature, coupled with contextual images, works well with children with attention differences. We also found that sounds can reinforce retention. For example, the mimicking of cellphone keypad sounds within games, improved the children's ability to recall phone numbers when trying to dial a phone number.

- Safe Kid was designed as a tool for the client, Spectrum Behavioral Associates, to use to teach children basic contact information. Safe Kid has interactive games that children can complete with adults and on their own. The client uses Safe Kid as an interface to communicate information when work with children.
- The application was developed in Unity using C#. Development of the application was divided into three learning outcomes: phone numbers, names, and address. For each learning outcome there is a mode to learn and practice the material. Within the practice modes there are unique games to reinforce information retention.
- The application also features an internal score tracker that reports concise statistics about the user. Within the application there are settings to control the auditory responses, which is necessary for children of different needs.

