

Inclusive Participatory Design Methods Study



According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 88 children were diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 2010 and suffer from social deficits in the learning environment. My thesis research study aims to merge principles of disability awareness and traditional design methods to produce a more inclusive method within the design process and ultimately develop a toolkit to better equip designers to incorporate individuals with cognitive, developmental and physical disabilities into the product development process.

Outline of Study

Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Fall 2012	Spring 2013
background research interviews initial lit. review	IRB approval study recruitment	analysis of existing solutions develop materials pilot case study	method refinement field testing develop toolkit



Research Question

research approach
How can the use of **individual needs assessments** and contextual exploratory research inform inclusive design methods to develop a solution that will promote healthy social interaction in school environments
among **children with autism age 6-12?**
population affected **outcome**

As a part of a methods study, this research final project looks to identify key methodological refinements of assessing preference in product selection in children with autism? Observations of co-creation sessions are used to examine healthy interaction and social skills during product engagement.

behavioral products

productized design methods

