



Creating the TACTILE learning tool for the blind/ visually impaired children

Inventing, changing improving – Making LIFE MORE ACCESSIBLE for everyone

THE PROBLEM

In Estonia, there is a shortage of tactile learning materials for teaching the blind and partially sighted children, which would improve the target group's perception / eye-hand cooperation, creativity, imagination, word learning, language and the usage of the Braille writing system. Therefore, teachers must create the materials themselves.

TARGET GROUP

Visually impaired / blind students. The tool is also suitable for a wider audience (for all children, as well as adults with vision problems).

THE GOAL

Is to develop smart ,user-friendly learning tools for children with visual impairments, taking into account their specific needs.

SCIENTIFIC ASPECT

The individual abilities of every learner need recognition, which requires that we take these abilities into account in our teaching methodologies(Open Society Institute, 2005).

- The environment of the child must be interesting and motivating for the child, other tactile tools are also used for infants with visual impairments. (Näkövammaisten Keskusliitto, 2014; Koskimies, Hänninen & Tarkiainen, 2005, 4).
- The development of perceptions is based on the state of vision: in the case of low vision, more attention is paid to the development of visual perception; in the cases of a severe disability most of the attention goes to the development of the touch – and hearing sense (Häidkind & Kuusik, 2009, 46).
- The activities were based on science-based trends and applied to everyday life. Creating an inclusive environment ,finding and implementing innovative solutions is definitely a goal all over the world.

RESULTS

- In collaboration with the teachers of Tallinn Helen School, teaching aids were created to enable blind children to become more involved in everyday life, based on the problem, the specifics and the needs of the selected target group.
- . The learning process of the target group was changed to be more playful
Created learning tools provide support and new opportunities and experiences for students, teachers and parents.
- Introducing the learning tools to a wider audience, through electronic channels, will support the achievement of inclusive education goals.

The following items were created within the project

- Tactile book “**The most perfect flower**” and a tactile learning tool/ game “**Seasons**”.
- Audiofiles for the game, apps and a movie
- The learning tools were tested at the Helen School in Tallinn to be modified and improved according to the feedback received (user experience). Required user experience (teachers and students).

Follow up activities

- The subject of tactile learning tools is essentially eternal, because handmade tactile and educational books are not commercially produced for the blind and visually impaired people target group because the cost price of such books would be very high and the target audience would not be able to afford them.
- Tactile learning materials created within the inclusive life project will be handed over to the Estonian Library for the Blind.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Modern day life offers us a flood of information that no human being can fully consume. If we want to understand how to help people, people with different backgrounds need to work together to create new knowledge within this interaction and to remove the boundaries of ignorance. (Aru, 2015)

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