

MIT 513: ToolBook Applications

Context

My course “Autism: Definitions and Behavioral Indicators in Children in Grades K-5”, was designed and developed as part of the course requirements for MIT 513: Computer Based Instruction under the instruction of Dr. Arnold Murdock. The course was completed during the spring 2006 semester using the SumTotal Systems ToolBook application. This project fulfilled many of the requirements for this course including:

- Utilize a comprehensive, systematic approach to multimedia courseware design and development.
- Apply instructional design principles to multimedia development projects
- Evaluate multimedia and performance support applications according to accepted standards
- Demonstrate the use of basic principles of screen design including use of visuals, buttons, and other media applications

Conditions

This project was designed and developed based on the needs of a local school that was facing a large growth in the number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This is a growing concern not only at that school but in the school system as the needs of the entire school change as these students become part of the population of the school. I felt comfortable in creating this course because of my previous experience in working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I understood the basic knowledge teachers would need to interact effectively with these students and also had access to subject matter experts in the field. The school needed an easy way to distribute the information at a low cost and computer based instruction was the best solution.

Scope

This lesson was designed as an introduction to a larger scale workshop curriculum that could be used in educating faculty and staff about the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This course can be easily loaded on to the network and used by teachers in the elementary school setting. This course was used by teachers in the Kindergarten and first grade at the school and the school hopes to eventually expand the course to a full scale curriculum as budgets allow.

Role

My role on this project was as designer and developer of the course. I conducted all front end analysis data gathering and analysis using resources at the school

and within the community. In addition, I created the course using the ToolBook program and loaded the course to the school's network for implementation.

Reflection

I would like to be part of the team that eventually expands this lesson into a full curriculum. I enjoyed using the ToolBook program and feel comfortable working within the interface of the software. I would also like to gain more experience working with the programming applications of the software and incorporate more interactivity into the course through video, quizzes, and other interaction media. I also think a simulator that shows how a child with Autism sees the environment would be a wonderful addition.