Participate in Research A personalizable access technology for children with cerebral palsy and complex communication needs



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Date Posted: December 18,2023 REB #18-777 - eREB 0288 Revised: November 23, 2023 Do you have a child with cerebral palsy and complex communication needs? Consider participating in a research study about developing a novel access technology personalizable at home

What is this study about?

We have created an access technology which users will be able to personalize at home to recognize their specific vocalizations, keywords and/or facial movements. We want to evaluate the impact of this new personalizable access technology.

Who can participate?

We are looking for participants who:

- are between 6 and 18 years old,
- have cerebral palsy (GMFCS level II-V, MACS level II-V, VSS level II-III-IV),
- are able to reliably indicate yes/no,
- have an existing access technology used at least 3 times/week for communication or writing,
- have access at home to a desktop/laptop/tablet with Tobii Communicator or the Grid communication/writing software installed, and experience with these communication programs.

What's involved?

- We will provide you with a personalizable access technology software and give you up to 5 weeks to personalize it at home by recording and annotating audio/video data of your child performing simple activation tasks (e.g., blinking, opening/closing mouth, saying "next" and "go" or "iiiiih").
- We will also ask your child to play a custom video game to test the performance of the personalized access technology software.
- We will ask your child to use the personalized access technology software for communication or writing for 6 weeks.
- We will ask you to fill questionnaires about appropriateness, usability, and contextual impact of the personalized technology right after customization of the technology, and then again after 3 and 6 weeks.

What are the benefits of participating?

- You will receive a personalizable access technology software that you and your family can customize together so that it meets your specific needs.
- Your participation will help improve the design of the personalizable access technology.



