

The Click-East study has been running now for six months, and it is going really well. We thought we'd take this opportunity to give everyone involved an update on our progress. Maybe your family is enrolled on the project, perhaps you're supporting our recruitment process, or you might have helped us out during the game development phase. Either way, we're so grateful for your support and we hope you'll agree that the study is worthwhile, and making good progress.

Recruitment so far

At the time of writing, 32 families have come in for their first assessment at Moray House, of which 28 were successfully enrolled in the study. There are another 13 families "on the books" with appointments scheduled in October, which means we should be on course to recruit at least 50 families by Christmas and hopefully even more!

So many people have supported this work and our thanks go out to all of you. However we'd particularly like to thank Anne O'Hare and Sue Davidson, partially funded by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation. Without them our research would never have got off the ground, let alone reached so many families.



Sue in cartoon form, by the app animator!

Making the Click-East Game Available

The free mini-version of the Click-East iPad app is available on iTunes already. It is called FindMe and almost 30,000 people have downloaded it since its release in January 2012! The successful relationship with our commercial partners, Interface 3, continues. With their help, we hope to be able to make the app available to the public across a variety of devices including the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch. There are also plans to make a version which will work on other kinds of tablets and smartphones.

We'll keep you posted!

Interface3
Smart MultiTouch Solutions

For the latest information about the Click-East project and a little insight into the academic research process, have a look at Sue's blog at:
www.clickeast.co.uk/blog



App Warning!

*If your family is enrolled in the Click-East trial, **PLEASE don't download the full app from iTunes until after your final appointment.** It will make it impossible to understand our results if people have been using the app at home, outside of the project. As a reward for your patience we'll make sure anyone who wants to has free access to it in the end. In the meantime, the mini-version of the app, which is available for free, is fine for anyone to use.*

Thank you!



What about me...?

Some people reading this might be thinking this is all a bit annoying. There are lots of kids who aren't going to be helped by our particular app – maybe they're older or more able, maybe they tried the app and didn't like it... Well, our next step is to try to secure a knowledge exchange grant from the Economic and Social Research Council. This kind of grant provides for a partnership between an academic and a commercial company. Our hope is that we'll get funding to create a whole range of apps for kids with autism, which target lots of different core skills. They'll all start at a simple level, but also have a lot more challenging content to keep everyone interested. The feedback we've had from families involved with the research will be crucial in making this new project a success.



Sharing our work with other academics, and also with practitioners like speech and language therapists and teachers is an essential part of research. It means we can share our findings, get feedback to improve our work, and it will also help us to secure funding for more of these sorts of applied research projects. In the last few months, reports on Click-East have been presented at conferences in Valencia, Spain and a bit closer to home in Glasgow and Edinburgh. We're also planning to present data from the current trial at a number of prestigious meetings in 2013, including the International Meeting for Autism Research. All of this would not be possible without your involvement and it is a real endorsement of the value of this work to the autism community.



Lots of the Click-East research team are also members of a group called the **Learning and Adaptive Environment Research Lab (LaerLab)** which is based in the Department of Informatics at Edinburgh Uni. The group is putting together a network of participants to help test new educational software for children with and without additional support needs. Network members will be asked to provide a bit of basic background information at the start, and then to give occasional feedback on software design. We might send a link to an early version of a game, or ask you to comment on the look or layout. If you're too busy, you can just ignore our emails, which will turn up no more than four times per year, we promise! If you'd like to sign up to the Network, please email Sue using the details in the orange box.

We can't thank you all enough for your support for the Click-East project, which so many people have given their time and effort towards. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or comments or if you're interested in hearing more about our research:

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