PROJECT YCAT: YOUNG CHILDREN’S ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Increasing independence for children ages 2–5 through communication, environmental control, and mobility

A CLOSER LOOK

Project yCAT was developed in response to a need for technology-based solutions for children younger than school-age who have significant challenges with communication due to complex disorders of movement and other special health needs. We have created a tablet-based assistive communication application that can easily be paired with existing “Smart Home” technologies such as temperature and lighting controls, television, Amazon Echo/Google Home, and others to allow children to navigate and control their environments with less support from caregivers.

OUTCOME

With financial support from the MidAtlantic CIO Forum, we have designed and fabricated a prototype system, and are currently in the second phase of user testing. Once refined, we plan to make the communication application available open-source through a project website so that families can adapt and customize it for the individual needs of their children.

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