**Conversation App for Autistic Children**

Nicholas Bruno, Travis Buff, Peter Cipolone, Dennis Klauder, Phong Tran & Adam Tucker
{brunon1, bufft25, cipolonep0, tranp6, tuckera9} @students.rowan.edu, klauder@rowan.edu

Advisors: Dr. Ganesh Baliga and Dr. Andrea Lobo

Computer Science Department

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**Problem**

Autistic children do not intuitively learn social conversation. 1 in 46 NJ children live with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Current challenges**

- Difficult to fade the human prompt
- Communication: Autism teacher, speech therapist, aides, other teachers, family
- Long preparation time: Plan, set up, train, track data, graph results
- Human assistance: Inconsistent
- Record keeping: Tedious, interrupts flow of conversation

**ABA Approach**

- Progressive reduction/fading of hints/prompts and rewards, till mastery
- Generalization: Other peers & settings
- More complex conversation structure
- Repeat sessions for competency

**Advantages of our App**

- Supporting adult can be physically removed from interacting peers
- Moderator Screen helps adult in real-time during a conversation
  - Click to increase a prompt level, when needed
  - Click to indicate completion of an utterance, thus triggering data collection and peer reward at the configured level
  - Click or comment to indicate required/optional observations; can include eye contact, volume, intelligibility, behaviors, unexpected answer
- Options for: New session, copy and modify existing session, and new/copy/modify template/sequence, new peer

**Solution**

An app to support, reward and track peer communication. Prototype is ready. Next: IP filing, development/testing, commercialization!

**Other App Components**

- Session: Conversation template, peers, date/time, default variable values, prompt/ reward levels, adult, outcomes
- Peer profiles: Interests, preferred rewards, likes
- Conversation templates and sequences of templates
- Fading and mastery

**Near Future Possibilities**

- More prompts customized for the child such as images
- Expand peer profiles
- Reports and Statistics page that summarizes peer/session progress
- Accessibility on any device (android, apple, windows etc.)