Blackbear Consultant’s Project Description – Rough Draft

Apologies for the long message, but hopefully it will help explain what we are trying to accomplish. If you have any other questions, I would be happy to answer them as best as I can. Below is a list of what I’m currently thinking we could use to help toward development:

1.       Any resources you would have to help explain/establish what the current guidelines for pre-school education are.

2.       Any resources you might have that could help us build and populate databases that have accurate and ABA focus long-term, short-term, and individual goals.

3.       Any other resources you might think of that we could investigate to help maintain as much accuracy as possible to both ABA and Special Education.

The application my group is looking to develop has a primary focus for children with autism or similar learning disabilities. The main idea is to allow someone with a tablet or mobile device to be able to download the software and create a user account that the student could work on. In the initial states the application would ask a series of questions aimed for either the parent or provider prior to starting trials for the client. The questions would attempt to gather baseline data regarding current levels of performance of the client in order to know which trials to start. In future iterations of the application, we would have secure databases which would store the current treatment goals of the client along with how they are currently performing in school (on a day to day basis to keep the database as up to date as possible). That way when the client gets home from school, the parent or other provider could log into the application using a secured login/username and be able to “practice” trials that were already mastered by the student in class, in essence this application would be a supplement for the client to continue and keep levels of mastery at home or away from the school environment.

The resources I’d like to gather are those that would help make sure we are indeed developing the application with current Maine Learning Guidelines and following ABA procedures as closely as possible. We would also like to gather resources that would allow us to help build our databases for trials. The initial application is aimed to present the earliest of learning goals. We are currently focusing on just working with the “Matching” skill set for shapes, letters, numbers, and colors. In the early stages of this application, in order to protect client’s information, we wouldn’t store the personal data or treatment progress from schools. Instead we would create multiple databases to store only the information we need for the application to function appropriately.

The First database would consist of multiple long-term goals that follow both the Maine Learning Guidelines and ABA, this is where I think taking goals or information from a source like VB MAPP would fit nicely. We could store all the long-term goals in one database, so the program is able to track which long term goal the current user is working on. From there, once the application selects the appropriate long-term goal from that database (this will be done by a series of questions presented to the parent or provider), it will navigate to the short term goal database to select which short term goal to work on (again while trying the follow Maine Learning Guidelines and ABA Practices). Once a short-term goal is selected, it will retrieve the trials that fall under that short-term goal. These trials are what will be presented to the client. As the client completes or fails the trials (performed as close to ABA/DTI/ITT standards as possible) the application will track this and store this information in a database strictly to decide if the user is ready to move onto the next level of trials or not. For instance, say we have a Maine Learning Guideline and VB MAPP long-term goal to target clients being able to identify shapes in their natural environment. One short-term goal would be being able to correctly identify 2D shapes. This would break down further to different levels of quantity, starting first with one shape, then 3 shapes, then 5 shapes, and so on. Ideally, If the user successfully completes the trials to identify one shape, the application will continue to work on single shapes until it meets the requirement of three shapes, then work towards the goal of 5 shapes. Once those goals are completed, it would go back through the database to find the next short-term goal to present.