

Emotion Communicator Workshop

A micro:bit makecode project (mentor guide)

Emotion Communicator Project

Printed resources list:

autism background

initial use case scenario

reference makecode solution without any instructions

Materials list:

micro:bit (2off)

pad of paper

pencil

phase 0: introduction to a potential use case scenario

introduction:

- verify understanding with a bit of background – the things an autistic person would find difficult or unpleasant.
- hand out the initial proposed scenario and get any ideas for amendments from dojo.

Use case scenario:

A young autistic person is (scared | confused | anxious | worried | unhappy | sad | upset) || (ok | not bad | fine) || (happy | having fun | excited) about something, so she chooses that emotion and then chooses how much she feels this. She then sends the emotion and how much to her friend | sibling | adult | parent | teacher.

friend | sibling | adult | parent | teacher receives the young persons' emotion and how much message, then sends back an OK (acknowledgement) message to communicate that the message has been seen | heard.

Young person receives the friend | sibling | adult | parent | teacher OK message, so ends the communication.

phase 1: AFK (Away From Keyboard)

From the use case scenario, coders identify the actors and roles needed. Something like:

child
childs_friend

From the use case scenario, coders identify (from verbs) as many of the required **problem domain functions** as possible. Something like:

for the autistic child:

chooseEmotion
chooseHowMuch
sendEmotionAndHowMuch
receiveOkMessage

for the friend:

receiveEmotionAndHowMuch
sendOkMessage

phase 2: Coding and Making

coders divide the development work by organising themselves into 2 or 3 groups or individuals responsible for:

1. programming the childs_device
2. programming the childs_friends_device
3. writing the user instruction manual
4. designing and making the box | wearable to house the micro:bit devices

user instruction manual for reference solution:

Autistic Child's device:

button A	==	scroll through options
button B	==	select and option
button A+B	==	send emotion an how much to my friend
shake	==	reset at any time to start again
face down	==	end comms after my friend has sent me an OK messages

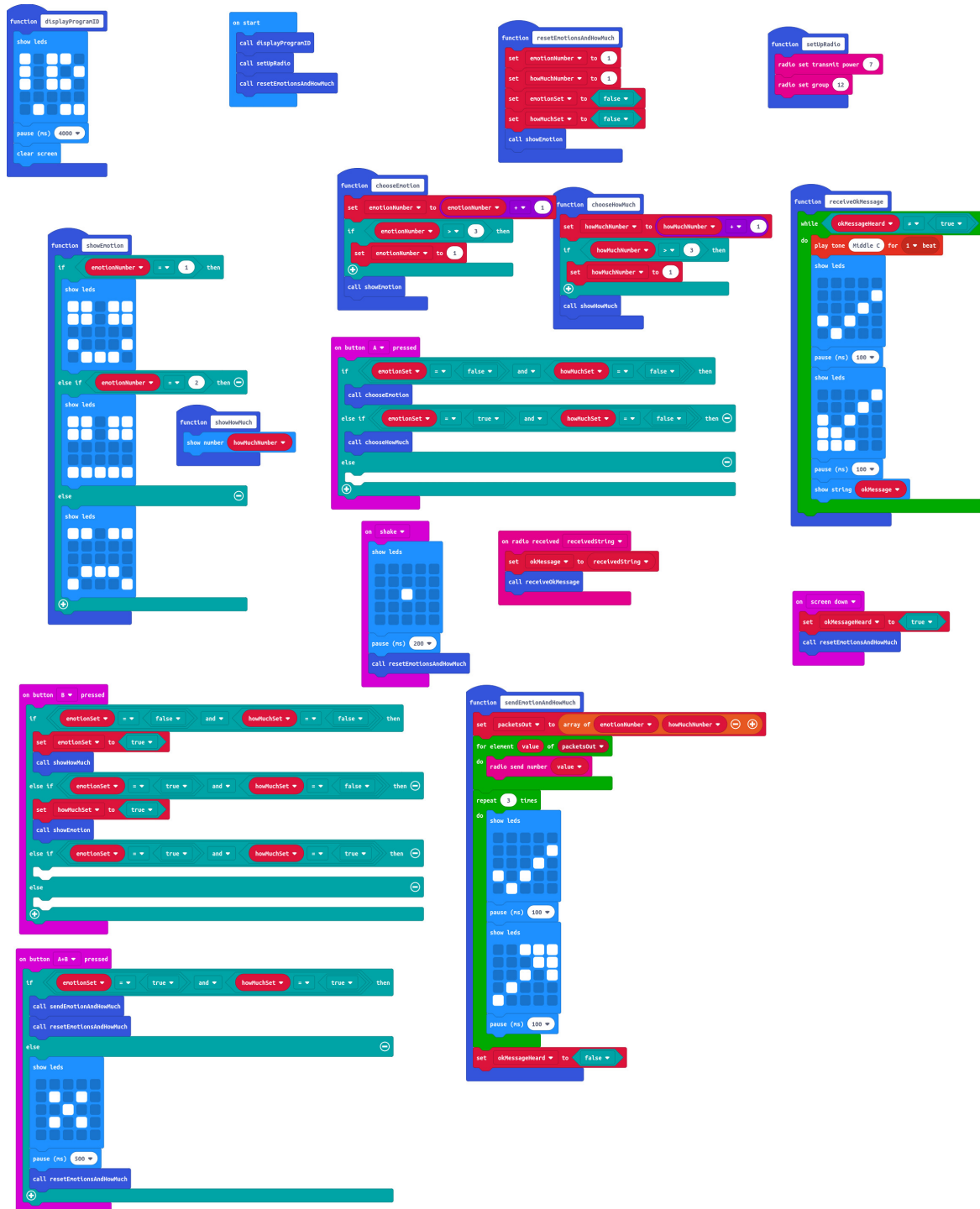
Friends device:

button A	==	send OK acknowledgement message
----------	----	---------------------------------

Reference solution code:

reference solution given to coders, but they'll have (mostly) define their own emotions, OK messages, function and variable names. They can take what they need from the reference, but generally figure it out themselves.

childs_device



childs_friends_device

