

ATELIER - ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEARNING, INTEGRATION AND REHABILITATION.

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Author(s): Gomes, Anabela; Páris, César; Barbosa, Jorge; Santos, Álvaro; Martins, Nuno; Teixeira, Ana Rita

Abstract:

A special needs individual is a broad term used to describe a person with a behavioural or emotional disorder, physical disability or learning disability. Many individuals with special needs are limited in verbal communication, or in many cases non-verbal, making communication and learning a challenging task. Additionally, new forms of communication based on technology aren't designed for them, making them increasingly isolated in social and educational terms. In spite of this, and fortunately, new forms of interaction do exist and they enable these particular users to access knowledge and provide them with the ability to interact with others, undertaking otherwise impossible. In this project the technology used will not be an end in itself but only a way to "drop" the mouse/keyboard paradigm making use of affordable devices available in the market that could be adopted by people with special needs that are unable to apply the traditional forms of interaction, thus assisting people in their education, integration and rehabilitation activities.

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