





IDENTIFYING INTERACTIVE TOYS' KEY CHARACTERISTICS FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES CHILDREN IN SPECIAL SCHOOL

Christina Flora

Received September. 30, 2024; Revised October. 28, 2024; Accepted November. 14, 2024.

Abstract: The rising prevalence of intellectual disabilities in Indonesia, notably in Jakarta, raises pressing concerns. Many affected individuals, particularly children, face social challenges that need to be addressed and implemented in education, thus the role of Special Schools, which unfortunately often rely on teaching methods that are deemed unsuitable for intellectually disabled children. Therefore, it is imperative to design a media that is suitable for teaching social relations in Special Schools. The use of interactive toys in play activities has proven to be beneficial in education, due to their contribution to children's emotional and cognitive development. This research aims to identify toy characteristics that enhance learning for elementary students with intellectual disabilities, providing recommendations for developing interactive educational tools for teachers. The methods used in this research will be observation and literature studies. Findings show that it is important to consider the use of color, materials, as well as several engagement aspects in designing interactive toys for Special Schools' elementary students.

Keywords: interactive; toys; intellectual disabilities; game lenses; special school

Introduction

The Ministry of Health states that the number of people with intellectual disabilities in Indonesia tends to increase every year with a prevalence of 1 in 5 people, where the highest percentage is found in the DKI Jakarta province, namely 24.3% of the total population in Indonesia (Widowati, 2023) with 3.3%, specifically 2.197.833, are children aged 5 to 19 years old (Fitri Syarifah, 2023). Until now, people with intellectual disabilities have been excluded from both their lifestyle and social status, with the problems they face becoming increasingly complex (Widyaiswara et al., 2018), due to mental, emotional, and behavioral deficiencies or limitations (Lestari et al., 2021), characterized by difficulty with adaptive behavior, slower learning rate, irregular learning patterns, and struggling in understanding abstract concepts (Ni'matuzahroh et al., 2024). Children with disabilities find it challenging to reciprocate social interactions, identified by less eye contact, minor facial expressions, and awkward body language, making it difficult to initiate a conversation and communicate their minds (Jacob et al., 2022) (Hodges et al., 2020). Many cases have shown that nearly half of the children with intellectual disabilities were found to have run away at least once which potentially leads to elopement risk, due to their social skills shortfall to check in on their

Christina Flora is a lecturer at The Faculty of Art and Design Universitas Multimedia Nusantara (UMN), Tangerang.

e-mail: christina.flora@umn.ac.id

parents and have communication and social bonding that most kids have (Anderson et al., 2012) (Hotez & Onaiwu, 2023), as social relations skills are strongly associated with self-awareness, the ability to identify themselves and their close surroundings, as well as interact with them, thus making it an integral part of their viability.

Nevertheless, these shortfalls can still be overcome with proper education and training (Lubis et al., 2023). Applying proper education for intellectually disabled children is not only focused on education at home but also needs to be emphasized in the school education system, which in Indonesia, can be addressed in Special Schools (Sekolah Luar Biasa). Special Schools play a major role in directing education for children with special needs, including developing attitudes, personality, intellectual, and physical abilities to achieve their optimal potential. It was recorded that in 2019, there were 38.545 children with intellectual disabilities registered at Special Schools (Lestari et al., 2021). However, according to field observations and past studies (Maryanti et al., 2021)(Istiyati et al., 2023), many Special Schools provide learning media that relies heavily on rigid textbooks and exam sheets which have unrepresentable visual aids, limiting experiential as well as practical learning, and are deficient in interactive aspects, making them less motivating, inflexible, and difficult to understand for students, causing hindrances in learning performance and dependencies. Not to mention other barriers such as teachers' insufficient ability in facing children with intellectual disabilities and substandard infrastructural support. It is advised that schools and teachers customize the study material to the needs and conditions of disabled students due to their abilities and potential differences (Maryanti et al.,

Preceding studies have proved that

playing therapy, as one of the intervention techniques that is suitable for intellectually disabled children (Lubis et al., 2023), fundamentally accommodates a child's growth, especially in emotional, social, and cognitive aspects (Johry & Poovaiah, 2019) (Hashmi et al., 2022) (Yogman et al., 2018). This type of intervention is carried out using various game tools accordingly to engage with their emotional aspects (Lubis et al., 2023), using toys for instance, where children interact, manipulate, and explore the toy's properties (Yogman et al., 2018).

The use of toys in the educational system to improve children's cognitive abilities is also supported by Bloom's theory which stresses the importance of comprehension, which is a condition where students understand what is being communicated and are able to utilize as well as apply the ideas contained independently. Comprehension success can be measured by how students understand the objectives of a context, as well as students' behavior and responses to information. This requires strength in communication, which can be in verbal and written forms. Basically, communication is carried out to describe, inform, influence, and entertain, yet in certain situations, for communication to be successful, a certain reaction is to be expected. As a result, a particular medium of expression is used to give a 'unique' experience in delivering an idea, a set of operations but an expressive creation, instead of a theoretical framework (Bloom, 1983). This statement shows how a toy in a play activity can be utilized to achieve a learning objective aside from using a conventional teacher-centered approach or textbook learning methods which are no longer considered effective, especially for students with disabilities.

Experts and previous research indicates that interactive toys have educational utility. It enhances cognitive development by offering a potentially superior or more productive learning experience due to their interactive nature. However, there is a notable lack of studies on interactive toys focused on children with special educational needs and disabilities (Hall et al., 2022).

Therefore, this research was carried out as a preliminary review to identify the key characteristics of an interactive toy as a learning medium for elementary students with disabilities. The output of this research is in the form of recommendations, which we hope can be applied in developing interactive toys for Special Schools' students that can be used by teachers in teaching social relations.

Methodology

The methods used in this paper are direct observation, derived from the concept of purposive sampling to focus on subjects that fit a specific profile (Campbell et al., 2020), and literature review approaches to strengthen the in-depth knowledge of toy playing led by young children with intellectual disabilities in a Special School. Purposive sampling uses a relatively small sample, therefore this study specified to participate 6 intellectually disabled children, ranging from grade 1 to 3 in a South Jakarta Special School.

The observation protocols were conducted by using free play, where children can participate voluntarily in playing activities with two different types of toys, namely Stacking Toy Train and Go Go Gelato!, as seen here in Fig.1, chosen by considering representative characteristics from Kudrowitz and Wallace toy's classification that motivate enjoyment and process-oriented learning, such as sensory, constructive, fantasy, and challenge (Johry & Poovaiah, 2019) (Kudrowitz & Wallace, 2010).



Figure 1. Stacking Toy Train and Go Go Gelato! (Source: Personal research documentation)

Expanding from Kudrowitz and Wallace's toy categorization, the research indicators will be formulated using Jesse Schell's Game Lenses, namely the lens of emotion, the lens of fun, the lens of motivation, the lens of curiosity, the lens of time, the lens of challenge, the lens of problem solving, the lens of skill, and the lens of accessibility, to evaluate the children with intellectual disabilities' engagement with the provided toys. The lens of emotion discusses the feelings that the player perceives which is the foundation of memorable experiences, strongly related to the lens of fun that emphasizes not simply pleasure but also the aspect of excitement in a game. The lens of motivation is established from the idea that humans are innate explorers thus having a high sense of curiosity and drive for enrichment and satisfaction. Each person's motivations can diverge therefore it is important to work out the targeted audience's true collective motivation. The lens of curiosity talks about how a game can trigger someone's inquisitiveness, answering the player's questions related to their interests. Determining the length of playing activities is associated with the lens of time, taking into account whether a designated game duration will ensure an overall positive experience to avoid boredom or frustration. The lens of challenge refers to how a game can provide a chance to exercise a player's skills in completing a game, for example by presenting obstacles for players to overcome. The lens of skill discusses considerations related to choosing a suitable combination of skills,

generally divided into physical, mental, and social skills, required in completing levels of challenges in the game. Schell stated that every game is a problem-solving exercise approached playfully, hence the lens of problem solving, used to analyze how a game engages players in tackling problems (Schell, 2014). These lenses exist to keep the player engaged and invested in playing the game, therefore creating a stronger emotional connection and leading to playing retention. The indicators as shown in Table 1 will be measured using Likert scale, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Table 1. Game Lenses Research Indicator (Source: Personal research documentation)

Game Lenses	Indicators
Challenge &	Can students remember the
Skill	contents of the media?
	Can students read
	content/media content?
	Can students understand the
	content of the media?
	Can students actively say the
	content out loud?
	Can students explain using
	their own words about the
	context of the media?
	Can students imitate the
	instructions/words/sounds
	they hear?
Challenge,	Can students differentiate
Problem	media content based on
Solving, &	color/shape/image?
Skill	Can students arrange media
	content based on
	color/shape/image?
	Can students solve problems
	in the media?
	Can students take the
	initiative/creatively look for
	alternatives to solve media?
	Can students think logically
	about media content?
	Can students complete the
	activities/objectives from
	the media?
Challenge,	Can students interact
Skill, &	appropriately with the
Accessibility	media?

Fun,	Can students focus on the	
Motivation,	media?	
Curiosity,	Do students seem to like/be	
Time, &	comfortable with the media?	
Accessibility	Do students feel bored with	
	the media?	
	Do students are not attracted	
	to the media?	
	Do students squint / frown	
	when looking at the media?	
	Do students bring the media	
	close to their eyes?	
Emotion	Can students express what	
	they feel about the media? Do students are prone to	
	tantrums and do not hesitate	
	to hit, throw or bite the	
	media?	
	Do students do something	
	that endangers themselves or	
	others with the media?	
	Can students be responsible	
	with the media they own?	
Emotion &	Can students sit quietly?	
Time	Do students' moods change	
	easily?	
Emotion &	Can students focus and	
Skill	concentrate?	
Emotion &	Do students look confident?	
Motivation		

Result

Observation is carried out by establishing conditions as follows:

- 1. In order to see the effectiveness of the characteristics of toys that are suitable for social relations learning media, it is imperative to understand thoroughly the teacher's role in introducing and coaching students using the media provided, therefore observations will be carried out using a one-on-one system, where one teacher will accompany one student.
- 2. The teacher will introduce two types of toys to students, namely Stacking Toy Train and Go Go Gelato! Toys will be

given one by one to study the interactions between teachers and students, as well as the students' responses to the media.

Based on the observations conducted on 6 elementary school students in grades 1 to 3 who have intellectual disabilities, the following results are identified in Table 2.

Table 2. Game Lenses Research Indicator (Source: Personal research documentation)

Can students remember the contents of the media? disagree Can students read content? Can students disagree Can students actively disagree Can students explain disagree Can students explain disagree Can students explain disagree Can students imitate disagree Can students imitate disagree Can students imitate disagree Can students differentiate media differentiate media differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange disagree Can students arrange disagree Can students differentiate media differentiate media content based on 2/6 agree Can students differentiate media disagree Can students arrange disagree Can students arrange disagree Can students solve disagree Can students solve disagree Can students solve disagree Can students take the disagree	Indicators	Result
Can students read content/media disagree Can students read disagree Can students disagree Can students disagree Can students disagree Can students actively disagree Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the disagree Can students imitate disagree instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students don differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree condor/shape/image? Can students disagree Can students arrange disagree Can students arrange disagree Can students solve disagree Can students solve disagree Can students take the disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree	Can students	3/6 agree
Can students read content? Can students disagree Can students disagree Can students disagree Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students do disagree Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree Can students disagree Can students disagree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students disagree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students solve 3/6 agree Can students solve 3/6 agree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree	remember the	3/6 strongly
content/media content? Can students understand the content of the media? Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students 3/6 strongly disagree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	contents of the media?	disagree
content? Can students understand the content of the media? Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students differentiate media content based on 3/6 strongly agree 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 3/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students read	6/6 strongly
Can students understand the content of the media? Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students do agree instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students arrange content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree con 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree on 3/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree	content/media	disagree
understand the content of the media? Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 3/6 strongly agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	content?	
content of the media? Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media acontent based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree	Can students	3/6 agree
Can students actively say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media acontent based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students differentiate media agree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange 3/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	understand the	3/6 disagree
say the content out loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the disagree instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students disagree instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media agree content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students assed on 3/6 strongly agree on 2/6 agree on 3/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	content of the media?	
loud? Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students actively	6/6 strongly
Can students explain using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 3/6 strongly agree 3/6 strongly agree 3/6 strongly agree 3/6 strongly agree 3/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	say the content out	disagree
using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media agree content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students arrange agree on 3/6 agree color/shape/image? Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	loud?	_
using their own words about the context of the media? Can students imitate the instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students explain	6/6 strongly
the media? Can students imitate the disagree instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students 3/6 strongly differentiate media agree content based on 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students take the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	using their own words	disagree
Can students imitate the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students 3/6 strongly differentiate media agree content based on color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students based on 2/6 agree agree on 2/6 agree agree on 3/6 strongly agree on 3/6 agree agree on 3/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	about the context of	_
the instructions/words/sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media agree content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	the media?	
instructions/words/ sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on color/shape/image? 3/6 strongly agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students imitate	6/6 strongly
sounds they hear? Can students differentiate media content based on color/shape/image? Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree 3/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	the	disagree
Can students differentiate media agree 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students arrange 3/6 strongly agree Can students arrange agree 2/6 agree on 2/6 agree 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	instructions/words/	
differentiate media agree content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	sounds they hear?	
content based on color/shape/image? 2/6 agree 1/6 disagree Can students arrange agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students	3/6 strongly
color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students arrange media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	differentiate media	agree
Can students arrange media content based agree on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	content based on	2/6 agree
media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	color/shape/image?	1/6 disagree
media content based on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to		
on 2/6 agree color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	Can students arrange	3/6 strongly
color/shape/image? 1/6 disagree Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	media content based	agree
Can students solve 3/6 agree problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively look for alternatives to	on	2/6 agree
problems in the 3/6 disagree media? Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree look for alternatives to	color/shape/image?	1/6 disagree
media? Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree look for alternatives to	Can students solve	3/6 agree
Can students take the initiative/creatively disagree look for alternatives to	problems in the	3/6 disagree
initiative/creatively disagree look for alternatives to	media?	
initiative/creatively disagree look for alternatives to	Can students take the	6/6 strongly
look for alternatives to		
solve media?	look for alternatives to	_
	solve media?	

Can students think	3/6 agree
logically about media	3/6 disagree
content?	
Can students complete	3/6 strongly
the	agree
activities/objectives	2/6 agree
from the media?	1/6 disagree
Can students interact	3/6 strongly
appropriately with the	agree
media?	3/6 agree
Can students focus on	2/6 strongly
media?	agree
	3/6 agree
	1/6 disagree
Do students seem to	3/6 agree
like/comfortable with	2/6 neutral
media?	1/6 strongly
media:	
Do students feel	disagree 1/6 strongly
bored with the media?	agree 2/6 neutral
	·
Do students are not	3/6 disagree
	6/6 disagree
attracted to the media?	2.11
Do students squint /	2/6 agree
frown when looking at	4/6 disagree
the media?	
Do students bring the	6/6 disagree
media close to their	
eyes?	
Can students express	2/6 strongly
what they feel about	agree
the media?	4/6 neutral
Do students are prone	2/6 agree
to tantrums and do	4/6 strongly
not hesitate to hit,	disagree
throw or bite the	
media?	
Do students do	6/6 strongly
something that	disagree
endangers themselves	-
or others with the	
media?	
Can students be	4/6 agree
responsible with the	2/6 disagree
media they own?	_
Can students sit	4/6 strongly
quietly?	agree
- 1	1/6 agree
	1/6 disagree

Do students' moods	2/6 strongly
change easily?	agree
	1/6 neutral
	3/6 disagree
Can students focus	4/6 agree
and concentrate?	2/6 disagree
Do students look	5/6 agree
confident?	1/6 neutral

Discussion

Kudrowitz and Wallace's toy categorization explained how sensory highlights the use of senses in how a toy feels, sounds, smells, and even tastes, which could also involve textures and material aesthetic elements of the toys, such as sandy, tactile, stretchy, and other types of tactile. Fantasy stresses the idea of pretense, imagination, and role-playing. Toys like tea sets, action figures, dolls, toy cars, and other similar toys, can immerse a child in their own make-up world. The construction type revolved around assembling, making, and creating things, not limited to stacking activities, thus including some degree of creativity, for example beading, doodling, arranging new words, and building blocks. Challenge-based can be a form of play that tests someone's abilities, mentally or physically. Toys that are challenge-based incorporate strengthening the child's cognitive ability (mental) like puzzles and riddles, as well as fine and gross motor skills (physical), soccer and juggling for instance (Johry & Poovaiah, 2019). Table 3 provides the Stacking Toy Train and Go Go Gelato! type of play affordance based on Kudrowitz and Wallace toy characteristics.

Table 3. Selected Toys Type of Play (Source: Personal research documentation)

Toy	Type of Play	Description
Name		
Stacking	Sensory	Colourful
Toy Train		wood texture
		and different

		stacking shape
		variants.
	Fantasy	Encourage
	1 antasy	
		imagination by
		creating
		scenarios and
		envision
		adventures.
	Constructive	Stacking shape
		blocks and
		connecting
		compartments
	Challenge	Motoric
	_	activity by
		pushing and
		pulling the
		train, as well
		as putting
		each block by
		matching its
		hole with the
		stick.
Go Go	Sensory	Colourful and
Gelato!	Jensory	quishy gelato
Gelato:		balls, as well
		as textured
		cones.
	E	
	Fantasy	Encourage
		imagination by
		creating
		scenarios
		related to
		engaging with
		ice cream.
	Constructive	Stacking the
		gelato balls
		and cones.
	Challenge	Motoric and
		mental,
		involves
		stacking the
		gelato balls
		and cones
		according to
		the randomly
		picked cards.
	I .	r. r

These toys are then given to children with the aim of observing the quality or property of the toys that define their possible uses for intellectually disabled children.

Through observations, it was found that most students, even with varying understanding and duration, had better abilities in identifying colors than shapes. This can be seen from the relatively short duration of the students' responses from when they heard the instructions until finally selecting and grouping objects based on the types of colors mentioned by the accompanying teacher. Past study explained that in designing for children, designers need to consider the fact that color is a form of visual language. Apart from being able to influence a child's preferences and interest in an object, color enriches and stimulates their visual vocabulary (referring to the elements, characteristics, or visual features used to identify, describe, and categorize an object), especially those who have limited psychological and cognitive development (Xu et al., 2022). It is also showed that children are more interested in color than the shape of an object and tend to easier recognize and interpret colors. The younger a child is, the brighter and more contrasting their color preferences are. In addition, the research results suggest using complementary color combinations rather than complex color schemes due to their undeveloped cognitive abilities to avoid distraction and visual fatigue (Xu et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, the majority of students seemed to have difficulty when given a game with too many variations in object shapes, Go Go Gelato, which only consists of two object shapes, seemed easier for the students to group compared to Stacking Toy Train, which had more shape variations, so instead arranging trains through shapes, students prefer to stack the object based on its colors. It is also debatable due to the fact that there is a possibility that the shape of Stacking Toy Train is not representable enough as the shape is too basic, contradicting with Go Go Gelato!

which looks exactly like ice cream. This idea is supported by the fact that one of the students tried to eat the toy because they perceived it as food.

Another interesting finding is how the students handle the objects. It can be seen that students often have difficulty matching the holes in objects, often drop or accidentally bump toys, and have the habit of placing objects by pressing them, so it is concluded that students are less able to deal with objects with fragile materials, because they will break quickly, or materials that are too hard, because there is a possibility that they will hurt themselves if not handled appropriately.

The game's engagement needs to be considered so that students stay focused. Several times students were distracted by sounds from friends around them or other objects. Students can return to focus if they are persuaded by their accompanying teacher through words or physical touch on the hands and forehead which are close to the eye area to divert their gaze from other external interventions. Aside from encouraging physical engagements, the use of sound in toys is recommended as a past study explained the importance of sound in toys to increase attention, curiosity, and interest, thus motivating the children to explore the affordance of the toy (Carlson et al., 2019). This sound should be identifiable, commonly heard, and imitable, applied as an interactive mechanism, activated as a respond to the action given to the toy.

Seeing that learning social relations requires a form of habit formation, Skinner's theory of operant conditioning is also used to assess the observation results. Operant conditioning introduces the concepts of antecedent (stimulus), behavior (response), and consequence (reinforcement). This theory discusses how a habit is first formed due to external encouragement or stimuli, thus the

term antecedent, which will later be responded to with a certain action by the subject. Different responses will give rise to different consequences, whether in the form of reinforcement, namely a situation where something is added or subtracted to strengthen behavior, or punishment to reduce behavior retention (Skinner, 2013). This concept of behavior formation cannot be separated from the duration of the stimulus-behavior-consequence process (time-variable), the action or response of the individual, the object that influences the action, insight or the takeaway through the repeated behavior, and expression or emotions shown through the individual interactions with the object.

Based on the results of observations, it is known that stimuli mostly start from encouragement and instructions by teachers, which are usually communicated verbally or through physical contact to maintain the child's focus. Instructions are given in stages and adjusted to each child's ability to respond. If the student succeeds in carrying out the action according to the instructions, then the teacher will give further directions. The responses shown by each student were different, some were able to immediately understand the instructions, others were able to understand but for a long time, view of them looked hampered, while one student even looked frustrated. For those who successfully follow the instructions, the accompanying teacher will give rewards in the form of applause or praise. This action does make the students look spirited, yet for some reason is not effective in creating behavior retention, so it is concluded that students are still not necessarily able to connect how appropriate responses or actions will have certain impacts or consequences.

Therefore creating a playing mechanism that discusses social relations using interactive toy designs is expected to have an integrative breakthrough, not just through technology convergence, but

a new game mechanism, "a new way to play" or so they said (Hall et al., 2022).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the observations indicate that students show a stronger ability to identify colors than shapes, which highlights a potential area for focused development in utilizing colors. Further research regarding the shape of an object, simplified or detailed and representable, is needed as a consideration in designing toys that put forward social relations themes, which in this case highlights the substance of identifying and likening real-life individuals with its illustrative portrayal. Difficulties in handling objects suggest that students struggle with fragile or hard materials, impacting their learning experiences. Effective engagement strategies, such as sound implementation may be able to redirect students' attention amidst distractions. Additionally, while teachers' encouragement and structured instructions facilitate learning, the inconsistent retention of learned behaviors indicates a need for enhanced reinforcement strategies. Ultimately, tailored playing mechanism approaches that consider individual student responses and the dynamics of their interactions with materials will foster more effective learning outcomes in social relations and cognitive skills development.

There is a considerable need for interdisciplinary and collaborative research to investigate the development of interactive toys. The participatory design approach is recommended to deepen understanding related to what the teachers need in teaching social relations to students with intellectual disability. Teachers are suggested to be more adaptable in teaching students with variations of intellectual disabilities, adjusted accordingly to their limitations, needs, and potentials. Conventional instructional learning is deemed to be ineffective, thus this research encourages teachers to be more accustomed to the play-learning method, facilitated by Special Schools.

References

- Anderson, C., Law, J. K., Daniels, A., Rice, C., Mandell, D. S., Hagopian, L., & Law, P. A. (2012). Occurrence and family impact of elopement in children with autism spectrum disorders. Pediatrics, 130(5), 870–877. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2012-0762
- Bloom, B. S. (1983). Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals. Longman Inc.
- Campbell, S., Greenwood, M., Prior, S., Shearer, T., Walkem, K., Young, S., Bywaters, D., & Walker, K. (2020). Purposive sampling: complex or simple? Research case examples. Journal of Research in Nursing, 25(8), 652–661. https://doi.org/10.1177/1744987120927206
- Carlson, K., Corness, G., & Sun, P. (2019). Active listening: Encouraging sound awareness through tangible sonic toys. Proceedings of the 18th ACM International Conference on Interaction Design and Children, IDC 2019, 334–338. https://doi.org/10.1145/3311927.3323158
- Fitri Syarifah. (2023). Jumlah Anak Berkebutuhan Khusus Terus Bertambah tapi Hanya 12 Persen yang Sekolah Formal. Liputan 6. https://www.liputan6.com/disabilitas/read/5233102/jumlah-anak-berkebutuhan-khusus-terus-bertambah-tapi-hanya-12-persen-yang-sekolah-formal
- Hall, L., Paracha, S., Flint, T., MacFarlane, K., Stewart, F., Hagan-Green, G., & Watson, D. (2022). Still looking for

- new ways to play and learn... Expert perspectives and expectations for interactive toys. International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction, 31, 100361. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijc-ci.2021.100361
- Hashmi, S., Vanderwert, R. E., Paine, A. L., & Gerson, S. A. (2022). Doll play prompts social thinking and social talking: Representations of internal state language in the brain. Developmental Science, 25(2), 1–11. https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13163
- Hodges, H., Fealko, C., & Soares, N. (2020). Autism spectrum disorder: Definition, epidemiology, causes, and clinical evaluation. Translational Pediatrics, 9(8), S55–S65. https://doi.org/10.21037/tp.2019.09.09
- Hotez, E., & Onaiwu, M. G. (2023). A Neurodiversity-Oriented Approach to Address Autism Wandering as a "Problem Behavior" in Pediatrics. Cureus, 15(6). https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.40862
- Istiyati, S., Marmoah, S., Poerwanti, J. I. S., Supianto, Sukarno, & Mahfud, H. (2023). Comparative Study of Education for Children with Special Needs in Malaysia and Indonesian Primary School. Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan IPA, 9(10), 7903–7908. https://doi.org/10.29303/jppipa.v9i10.5210
- Jacob, U. S., Edozie, I. S., & Pillay, J. (2022). Strategies for enhancing social skills of individuals with intellectual disability: A systematic review. Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences, 3(September). https://doi.org/10.3389/fresc.2022.968314
- Johry, A., & Poovaiah, R. (2019). Playfulness through the lens of toy design: a study with Indian preschool children with intellectual disability*. International Journal of Play, 8(3), 255–275. https://doi.org/10.1080/21594937.2

019.1684155

- Kudrowitz, B. M., & Wallace, D. R. (2010). The play pyramid: A play classification and ideation tool for toy design. International Journal of Arts and Technology, 3(1), 36–56. https://doi.org/10.1504/IJART.2010.030492
- Lestari, G. M., Pratamawati, T. M., & Brajadenta, G. S. (2021). Hubungan Pengetahuan tentang Disabilitas Intelektual terhadap Tingkat Kecemasan Orang Tua yang Memiliki Anak dengan Disabilitas Intelektual. Tunas Medika Jurnal Kedokteran & Kesehatan, 7, 1–5. https://jurnal.ugj.ac.id/index.php/tumed/article/view/6616
- Lubis, R., Syafitri, N., Maylinda, R. N., Alyani, N. N., Anda, R., Zulfiyanti, N., & Surbakti, O. Z. (2023). Pendekatan Behavioristik untuk Anak Disabilitas Intelektual Sedang. Jurnal Obsesi: Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini, 7(2), 1626–1638. https://doi.org/10.31004/obsesi.v7i2.4161
- Maryanti, R., Nandiyanto, A. B. D., Hufad, A., & Sunardi, S. (2021). Science Education for Students with Special Needs in Indonesia: From Definition, Systematic Review, Education System, to Curriculum. Indonesian Journal of Community and Special Needs Education, 1(1), 1–8. https://doi.org/10.17509/ijcsne.v1i1.32653
- Ni'matuzahroh, Sri Retno Yuliani, Soen, M. (2024). Psikologi Dan Intervensi Pendidikan Anak Berkebutuhan Khusus (4th ed.). UMM Press.
- Schell, J. (2014). The Art of Game Design: A Book of Lenses: Second Edition. In The Art of Game Design: A Book of Lenses: Second Edition. https://doi. org/10.1201/b17723
- Skinner, B. F. (2013). Contingencies of Reinforcement: A Theoretical Analysis. Meredith Corporation.

- Widowati, C. A. (2023). Definisi Gangguan Jiwa dan Jenis-jenisnya. https:// yankes.kemkes.go.id/view_artikel/2224/definisi-gangguan-jiwa-dan-jenis-jenisnya
- Widyaiswara, Y., Madya, A., Regional, B., & Sumatera, I. (2018). Konsep, Permasalahan dan Solusi Penyandang Disabilitas Mental di Indonesia. Jurnal Ilmiah Kesejahteraan Sosial, 14(26), 101–102.
- Xu, W., Xu, H., & Guo, X. (2022). Modelling Design of Color Graphics Books Using Visual Vocabulary Based on Children's Color Language Preferences. CMES Computer Modeling in Engineering and Sciences, 130(2), 1171–1192. https://doi.org/10.32604/cmes.2022.017824
- Yogman, M., Garner, A., Hutchinson, J., Hirsh-Pasek, K., Golinkoff, R. M., Baum, R., Gambon, T., Lavin, A., Mattson, G., & Wissow, L. (2018). The power of play: A pediatric role in enhancing development in young children. Pediatrics, 142(3). https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2058