

HyperTalkie Overview

HyperTalkie is a handheld communications device designed for use by child care professionals that engage in field trips and other types of excursions with groups of young children. It combines the communication capabilities of cell phones and two-way radios into a single device, thereby allowing two complementary styles of communication: one-to-one phone calls, and one-to-many broadcasts. Through interviews with childcare workers these two types of communication were identified as being important during off-site excursions. The capability of making a phone call is important in emergency situations and for synchronization with stakeholders outside of the field trip group. Broadcast communication is important for efficient coordination among the childcare workers that are on the field trip and responsible for groups of children.

Illustration of the Device Interface



Lasso tool for group formation:

Uses Bluetooth to create broadcast groups on the fly. (Storyboard 1 illustrates this process.) Creating a new broadcast group activates it by default.



Push-to-talk functionality:

Broadcasts message to all HTs within the active broadcast group. Group's are created using the Lasso tool, and managed in the Address Book



Message Replay:

Invokes replay mode on the HT. The most recently broadcast message plays back, and the interface displays information (name of sender, time, length) for the 3 buffered broadcasts.



(Conventional Cell Interface)

Storyboard 1: Broadcast group formation using the Lasso feature

