

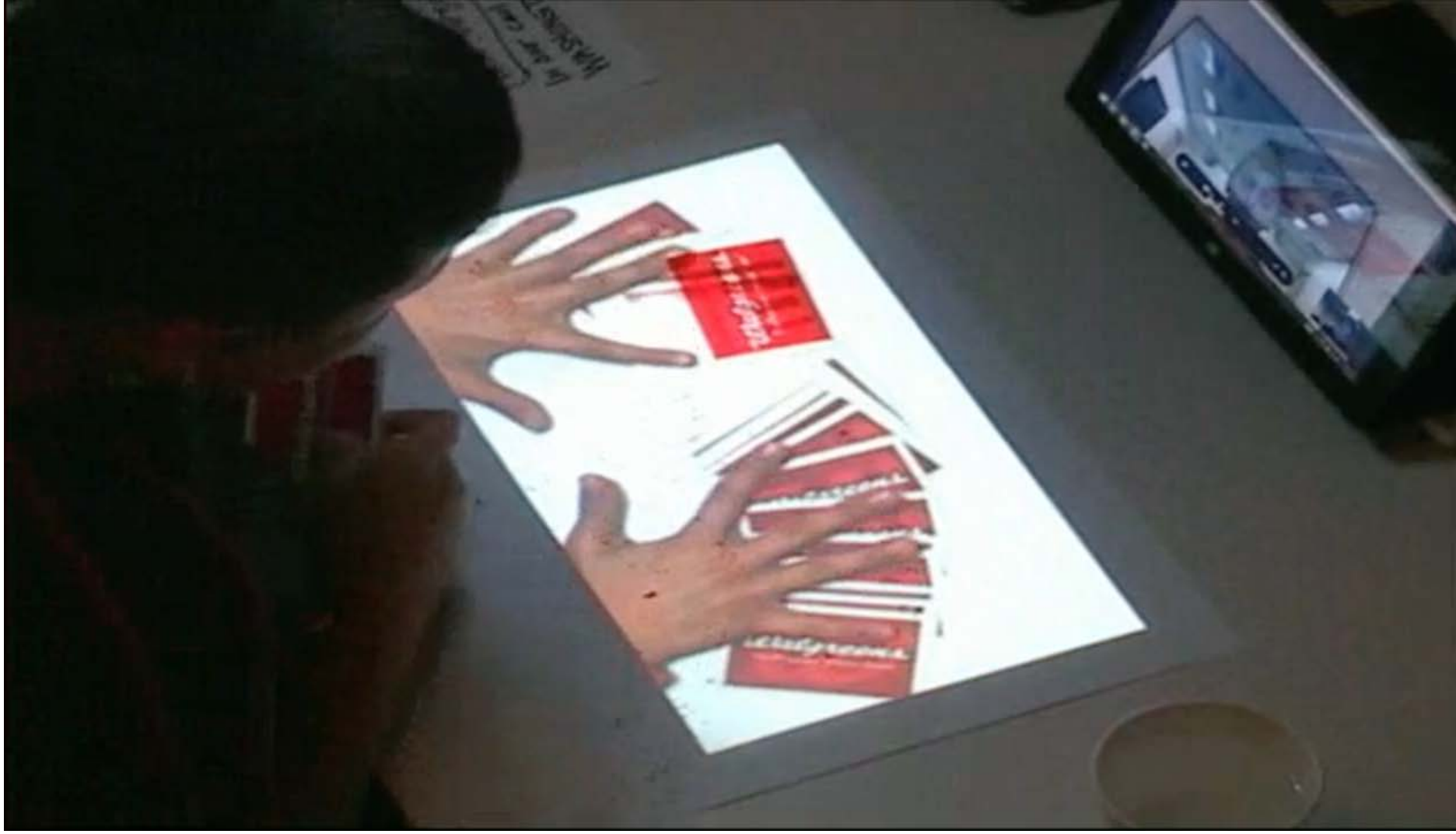
Let's Play from Far Away

Exploring Mixed-Reality, Remote Playdate Solutions for Children on the Autism Spectrum

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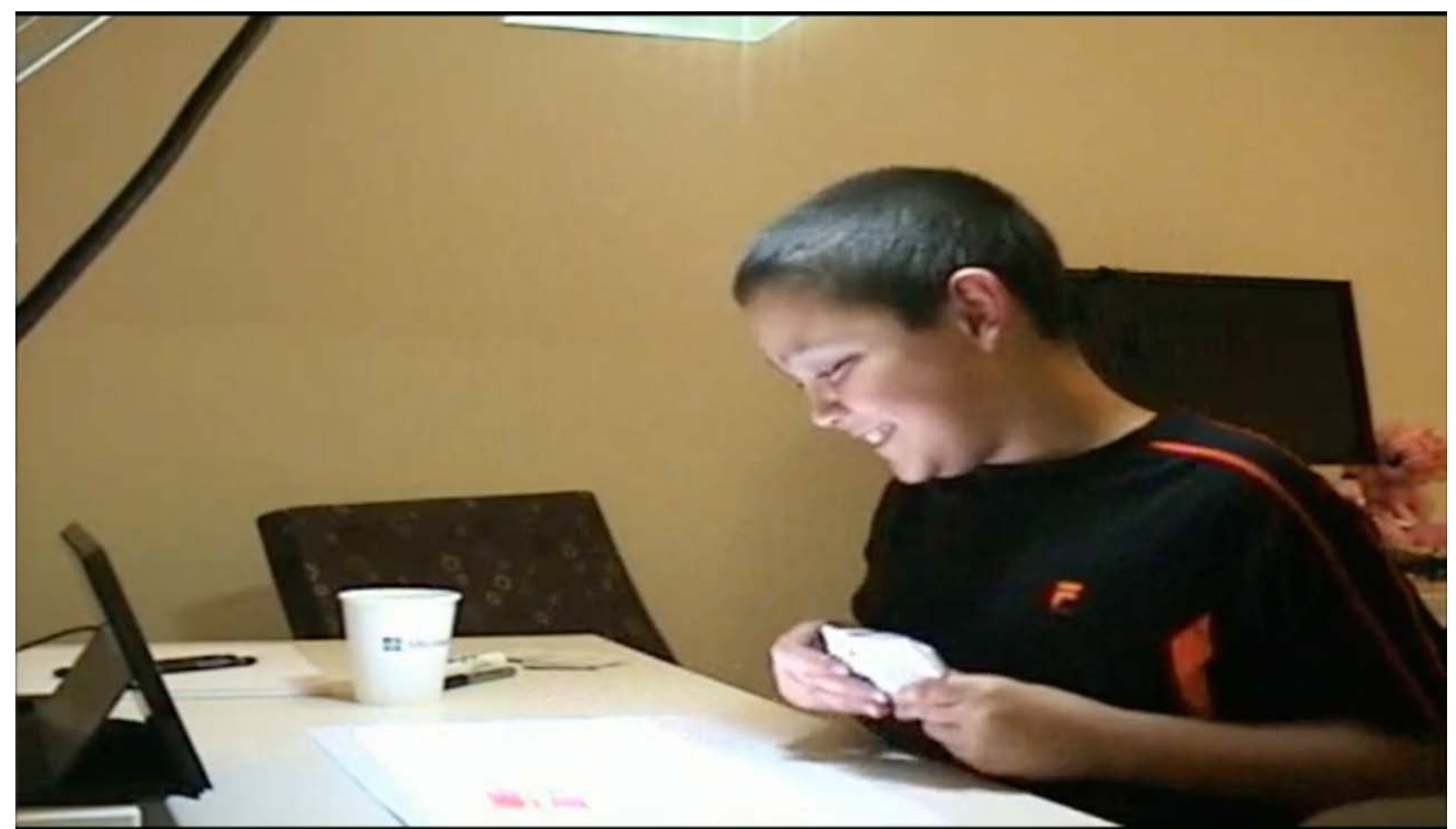
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Research Perspective & Goals

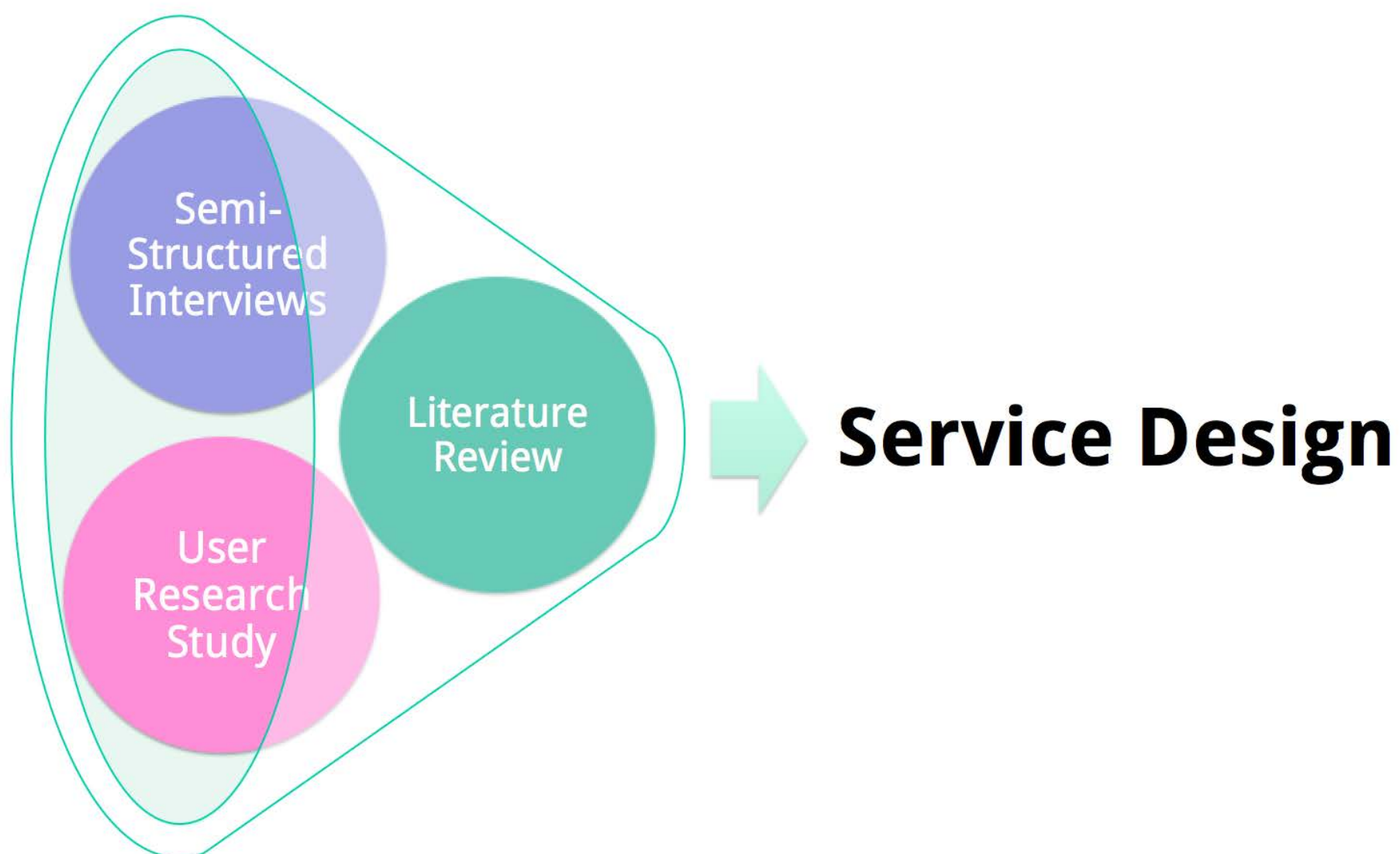


What are the benefits and challenges of playdates for children with ASD?

How would children with ASD react and adapt to playdates over Skype and a mixed-reality table surface, IllumiShare, from Microsoft Research.



Process



Service Design

Guidelines for parents to incorporate remote communication technology into their child's life:

Keep the chat short, about 15 minutes.

Facilitate the first few sessions to encourage and observe interactions.

Both kids should have toys on hand:

- Cards and poker chips for Go Fish and War.
- Markers and paper. Prompt them to draw or write about a school project.
- Favorite cars, dolls, and play-doh.
- Storytelling cards. Prompt them to take turns showing a card and evolving the story.

Help transition to the end of the chat. Tell them how much time is left and ask them to share what they are doing next in their day.

Key Takeaways

Parents want more playdates but struggle with scheduling and finding compatible friends.

Children with ASD exhibited desired social skills while having remote playdates.

Children with ASD were more engaged when video chat via Skype was active.



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