Edition 53

Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

"When it is obvious that goals can't be reached, don't adjust the goals, but adjust the action steps." —Confucius

Technology made affordable would make adjustments possible for many.

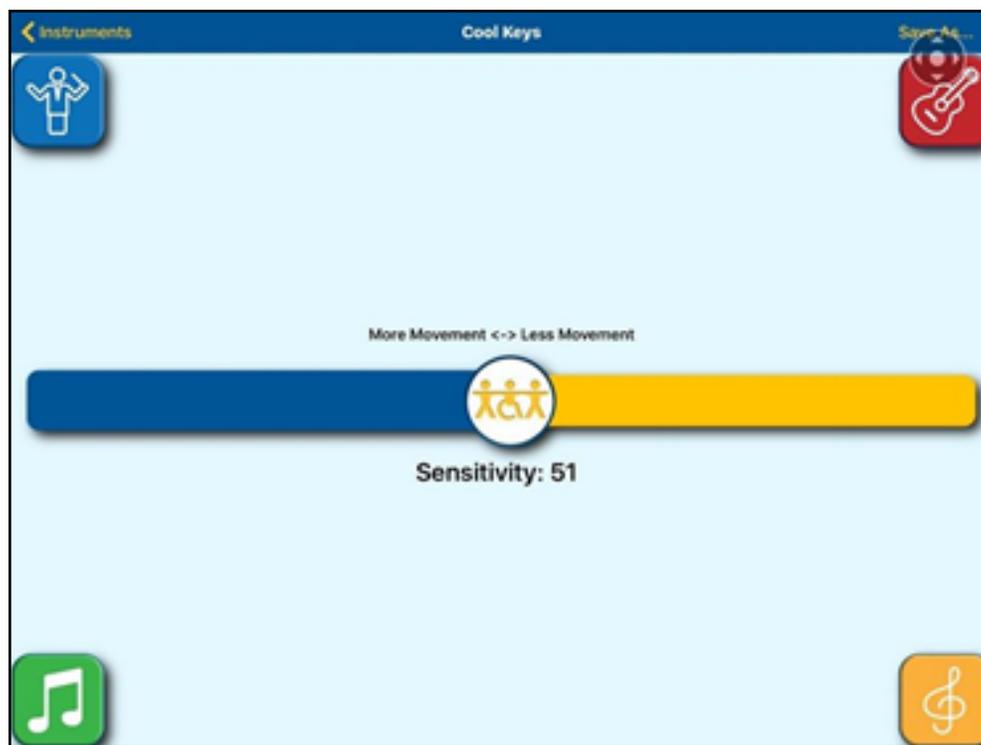Happy Reading!!

Regards,

Bhavna Botta

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Tech corner

Waveband
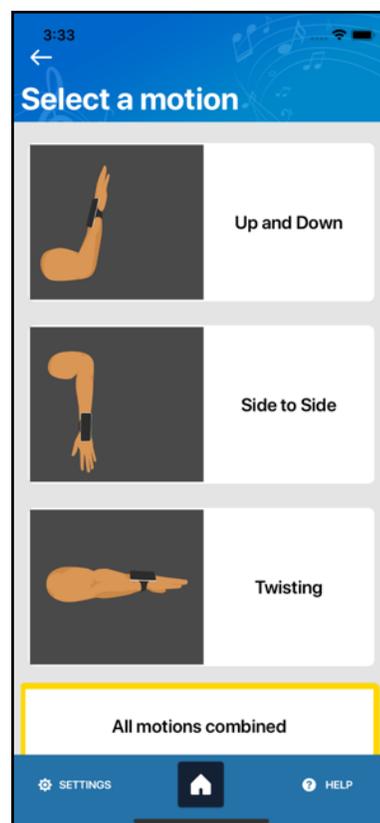
The free to download ,Waveband app allows you to play musical instruments by moving your Apple device.You can make music by moving the device up and down, side to side and twisting.

Waveband is designed to be used by anyone who wants to express themselves musically through motion with their iOS device (iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad). When used in conjunction with a strap to secure the device to the body,the app can be especially useful to people who have disabilities that prevent them from playing traditional musical instruments

picture description-screen shot of options and sensitivity

It is great fun and a good source of exercise. It's suitable app for people who have some form of movement, or visually impaired , basically,anyone who loves to have a dance. The app is free to download and includes multiple instruments, such as piano, drums, guitar and tambourine.

pic description-iphone strapped on forearm showing different select a motion options to play music-up and down,side to side,twisting
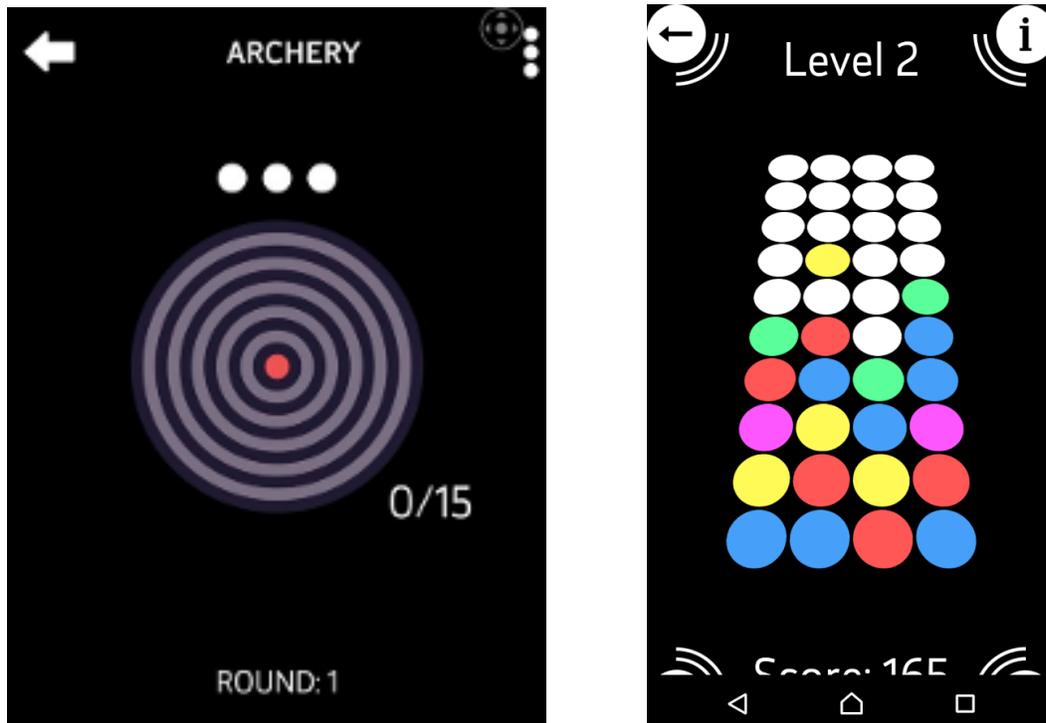
Audio Game Hub

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCdbqT-OT-c&feature=emb_rel_end

Designed for people who are blind or visually impaired, the app has a voice over and invert colour feature. There are 10 games including casino, archery and memory skills .

Every game has audio description throughout and different sound effects to identify colours, animals, numbers and obstacles.

The app is free to download from the iTunes App store and has numerous in-app purchases available to gain more coins, additional levels and to skip adverts. There is also a version on Google Play for Android.

Picture description screen shots of archery game with bulls eye and level 2 showing circles of different colors to match

5 ways technology is changing how people with disabilities experience the world

Originally featured in**Access and Inclusion Through Technology News,** Shared by Microsoft On the Issues

https://news.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2019/05/14/inclusive-technology-changing-people-with-disabilities-experience-world/

For the past nine years, Microsoft has brought together people from different parts of the company at the Ability Summit. Here's a closer look at recent technologies with inclusive design.

Seeing AI

Artificial intelligence is bringing descriptive detail to people in the form of an app, Microsoft's Seeing AI.   Seeing AI is designed for people who are blind or with low vision. It augments the world around the user with audio descriptions. And it reads short bursts of text and scans product bar codes. Documents can be photographed and their content read back. Seeing AI also scans and reads handwritten notes

Soundscape

YouTube Video

https://youtu.be/XIR7zIzefs8

Microsoft Soundscape goes beyond immediate proximity to build a 3–D sound map of the user's world. It uses data and sound to add layers of information and context.

In short, it helps users feel more comfortable when making their way around. Landmarks, road intersections and the places regularly visited can all be allocated a sound beacon so they can be clearly detected upon approach.

Soundscape's synthesized binaural audio adds realism to directions, taking the map on a user's phone and, effectively, creating an audio version.

Translation and captioning

[Microsoft Translator](#) acts as a real-time translation hub sitting between people speaking different languages and translating on the fly. It can do this when multiple languages are being spoken at the same time. It can also be set English to English and provide real-time captioning for people who are deaf or hard–of–hearing.

Gaming gets serious

The global gaming market is a multi billion–dollar industry. To help make gaming more accessible, Microsoft introduced the Xbox [Adaptive Controller,](#)a product of the company's Hackathon in 2015. This controller has large, programmable buttons and can be connected to a range of external devices. The combination of large and customizable switches, buttons, mounts and joysticks empower all gamers.

Code you can hold in your hands

YouTube Video

https://youtu.be/wb59Pr7Bagg

Microsoft Code Jumper is the physical manifestation of a programming language that's helping children who are blind or with low vision learn to code. Code Jumper is made of a series of programmable, tactile plastic switches, or pods. Each pod is an instruction, and can be joined together to create a line of code.

It means all children studying coding as part of their school curriculum can benefit. Children can learn about sequence, iteration, selection and variables. And they learn how to solve a problem by thinking algorithmically —breaking a process down into its constituent parts and looking for different routes to the best solution.

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