

CONNECTING GRANDCHILDREN WITH GRANDPARENTS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN

#grandparent #chronicpain #technology

INTRODUCTION

The grandparent-grandchild bond is one of the most important family relationships. However, it can be difficult to build or maintain this relationship when family members are separated by distance.

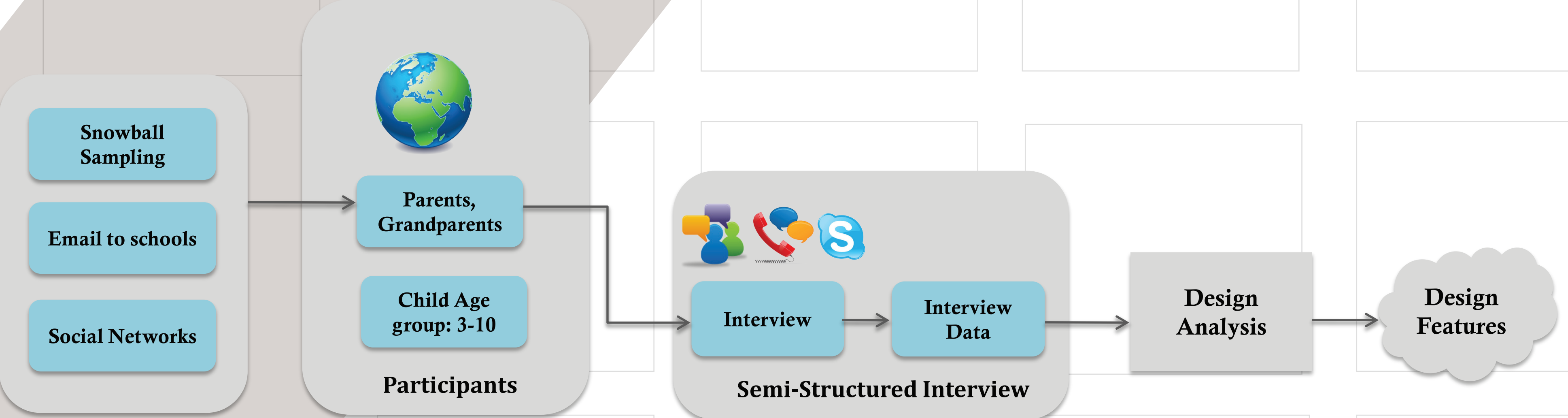
This is especially challenging with grandparents who suffer from chronic pain and may be less able to leave their home or travel to visit their grandchildren.

Studies show that chronic pain patients who are supported by their families experience less pain intensity and have more satisfactory social interactions.

Here we are specifically focusing our design on supporting situations where grandparents are suffering from chronic pain and have a more difficult time traveling or communicating with their grandchildren as a result. This research is currently at a preliminary stage where we are iterating on design ideas and engaging in rapid prototyping activities.

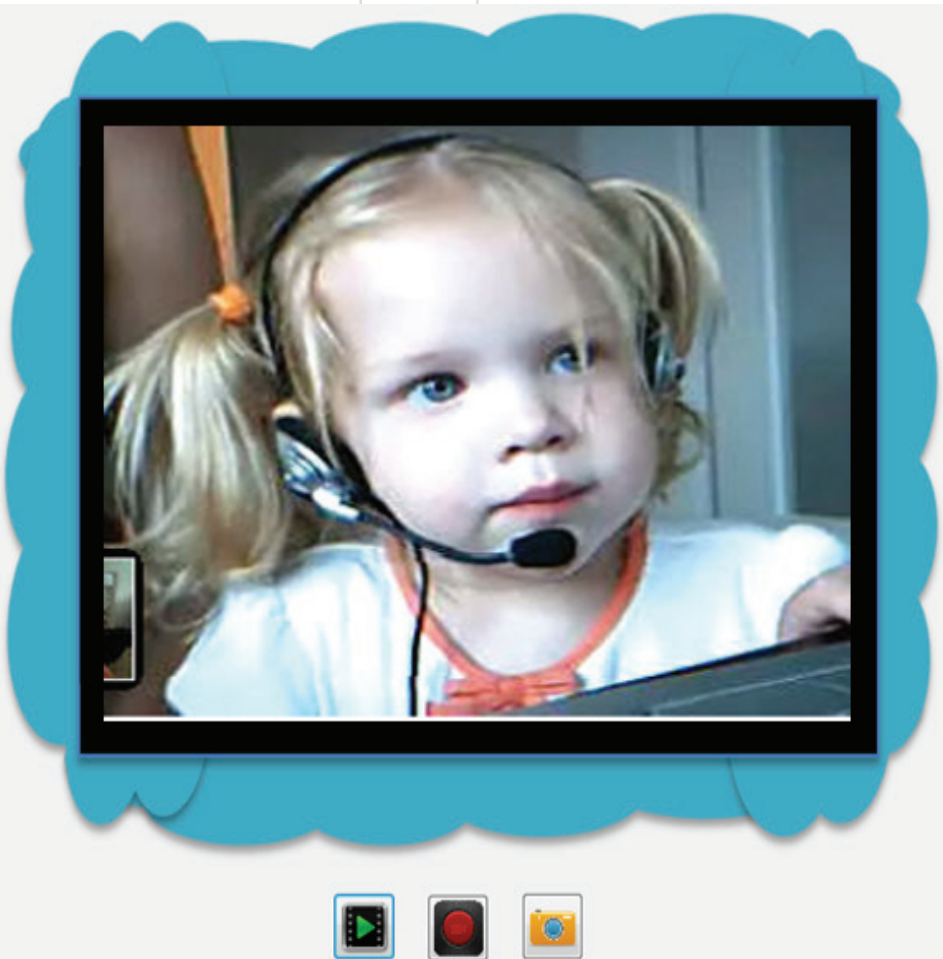
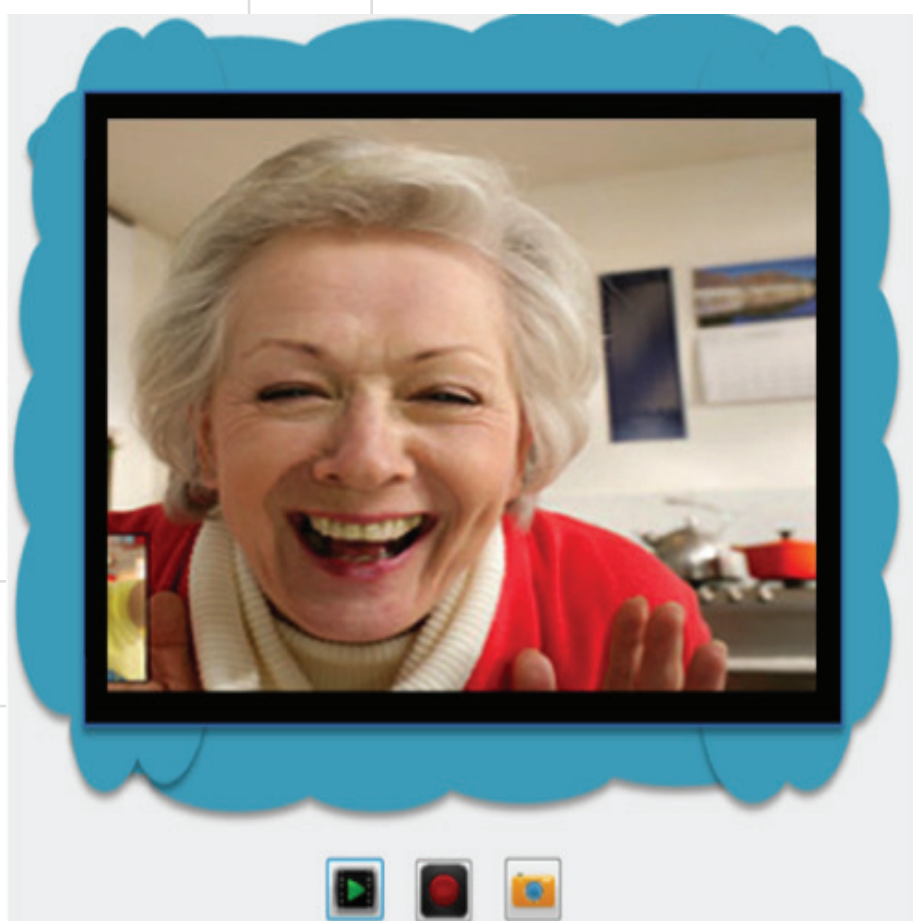
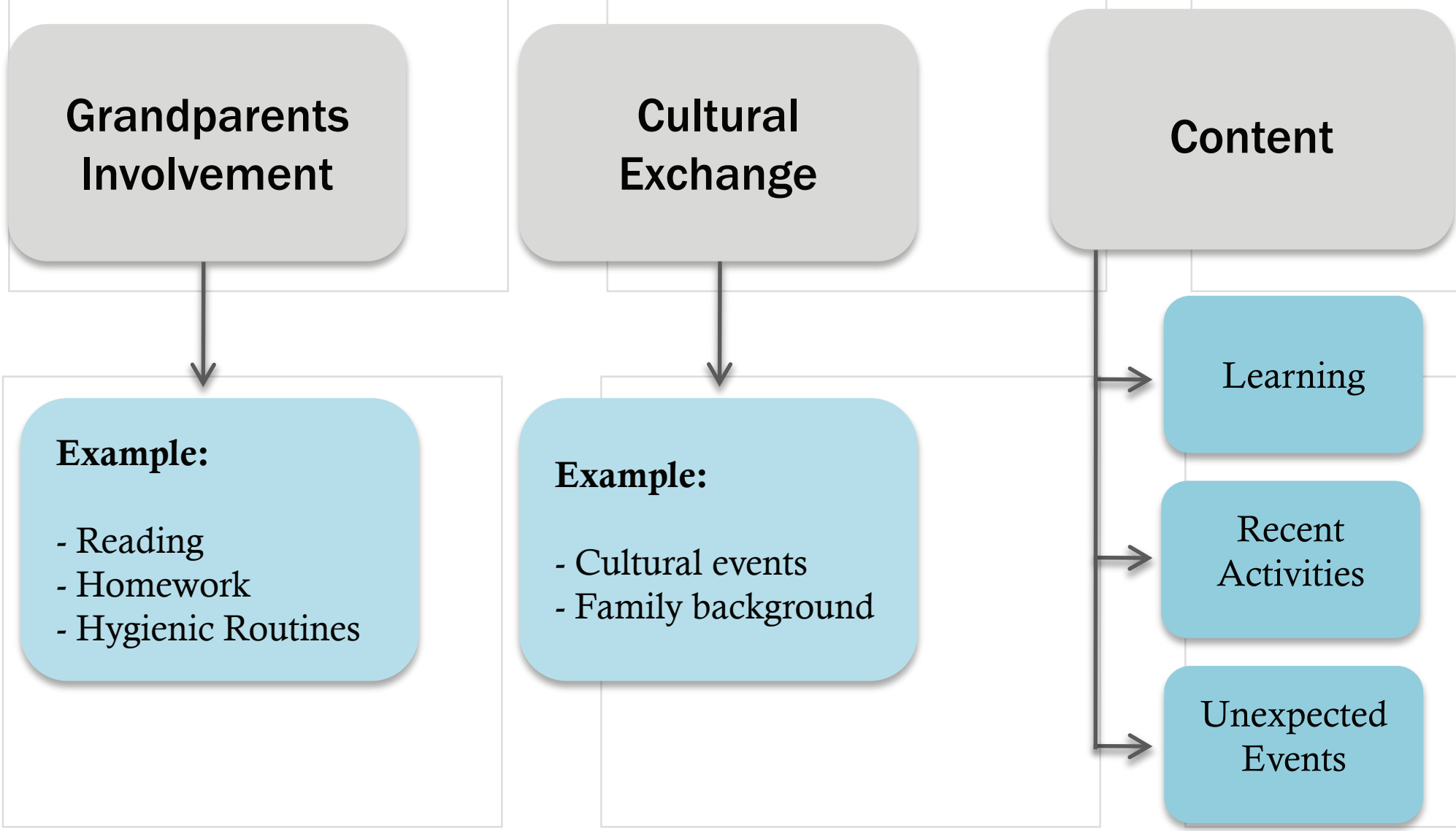
METHOD

We conducted a study to explore the existing communication model as well as the future desired communication pattern between distance-separated grandparents and grandchildren. The main purpose of this study is to investigate the way they currently communicate as well as the expectations, limitations, and challenges that could be used to develop a set of design features.

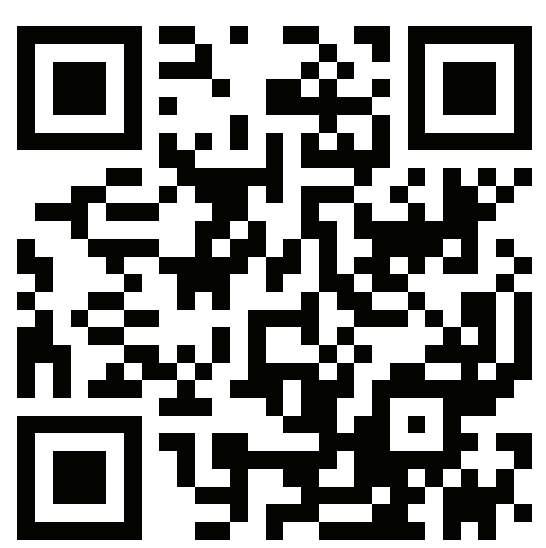


FINDINGS

Our findings show the content of the communication, how parents like to get remote grandparents involved in some responsibilities and cultural exchange between distance-separated grandparents and grandchildren.



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