

ADAPTIVE TOY PROJECT

Our Mission

Toys help children learn about themselves and the world around them. As children play, they develop cognitive, fine and gross motor skills needed for problem solving. Children with disabilities are no exception.

Our mission is to engineer innovative adaptive toy technologies to help engage children with disabilities in play. These toys are low-cost, easily accessible, user friendly, and uniquely tailored to meet the physical and cognitive needs of each individual child.

Helping Children be Children

Children with disabilities, families, and therapists directly benefit from our program. Our goal is to improve the children's future independent functional prognosis, medical management, educational cost, academic success, and overall quality of life.

Community

Our research aims to provide a change in current clinical intervention guidelines for children with disabilities. Our work has been recognized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as highly innovative and focused on a very critical and underdeveloped scientific area.

Research

Our work exposes students to child-centered research projects. We hold the only two R25 NIH grants at the University focused on teaching Engineering and Physical Therapy students to create adaptive toys for children (6 months to 5 years old) with mobility impairments.

Teaching

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Dr. Mary Lundy

Physical Therapy Program Brooks College of Health

An assistant professor in the doctor of physical therapy program and a licensed pediatric physical therapist. She has extensive clinical experience working with children that have developmental disabilities. She is an active member of the Pediatric section of the American Physical Therapy Association and is a certified neuro-developmental therapist. Her research interest is in working with communities to support evidence-based practice.

Dr. Juan Aceros

Electrical Engineering College of Computing, Engineering & Construction

Received the M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering. From 2009 to 2013, he was a Senior Research Associate with the Neuroengineering Laboratory at Brown University where he developed advanced biomedical technology for clinical and research applications. In 2013, he joined the University of North Florida as an Assistant Professor of Engineering. His research interests are in the areas of adaptive devices, assistive technologies, and sensors and actuators.

Institutional Commitment

Our most valuable resource is the passion, creativity, and dedication of the students, the faculty, community, and our administration. In addition, support has been secured through a UNF Community-Based Transformational Learning Opportunity grant and recently through federal grants from NIH. Our facilities include:

. Dedicated research space in the Engineering Building (800 square feet in Building 4). This space is currently equipped with electrical testing instrumentation, and power and hand tools required for creating and modifying assistive and adaptive devices.

. Dedicated research space in the Physical Therapy program (1300 square feet in Building 53) equipped and assigned as the community interface laboratory for our expanding pediatric cross-disciplinary, service-learning projects.

How can you help?

<http://www.unfadaptivetoyproject.com/>