



**TERENCE**

# The TERENCE Project

## Selected Highlights

<http://www.terenceproject.eu>

**R. Gennari (FUB)**



**T. Di Mascio (UnivAQ)**



**P. Vittorini (UnivAQ)**





# The TERENCE Project



TERENCE is a 3-year **collaborative** project

- ▶ of the FP7 framework
- ▶ for Technology Enhanced Learning (**TEL**)
- ▶ with 12 partners and 2 consultants
- ▶ for developing an **adaptive learning system**
- ▶ that recommends, to its users, its learning material
  - ▶ stories and games
  - ▶ and learning tasks
    - ▶ reading and playing
- ▶ to stimulate their reading comprehension → [demo](#)
- ▶ The project is thus highly cross-disciplinary **but with a common thread**
- ▶ So is this presentation (we hope :-))





# Thread - Outline



**STEP I - Introduction:** the  
TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

**STEP II - What:** the design of the  
learning material and tasks

**STEP III - Who:** users and  
adaptation

**STEP IV - How:** the evaluation of  
the material and adaptation

**STEP V - The end:** conclusions





# STEP I: Introduction





# Thread - Outline



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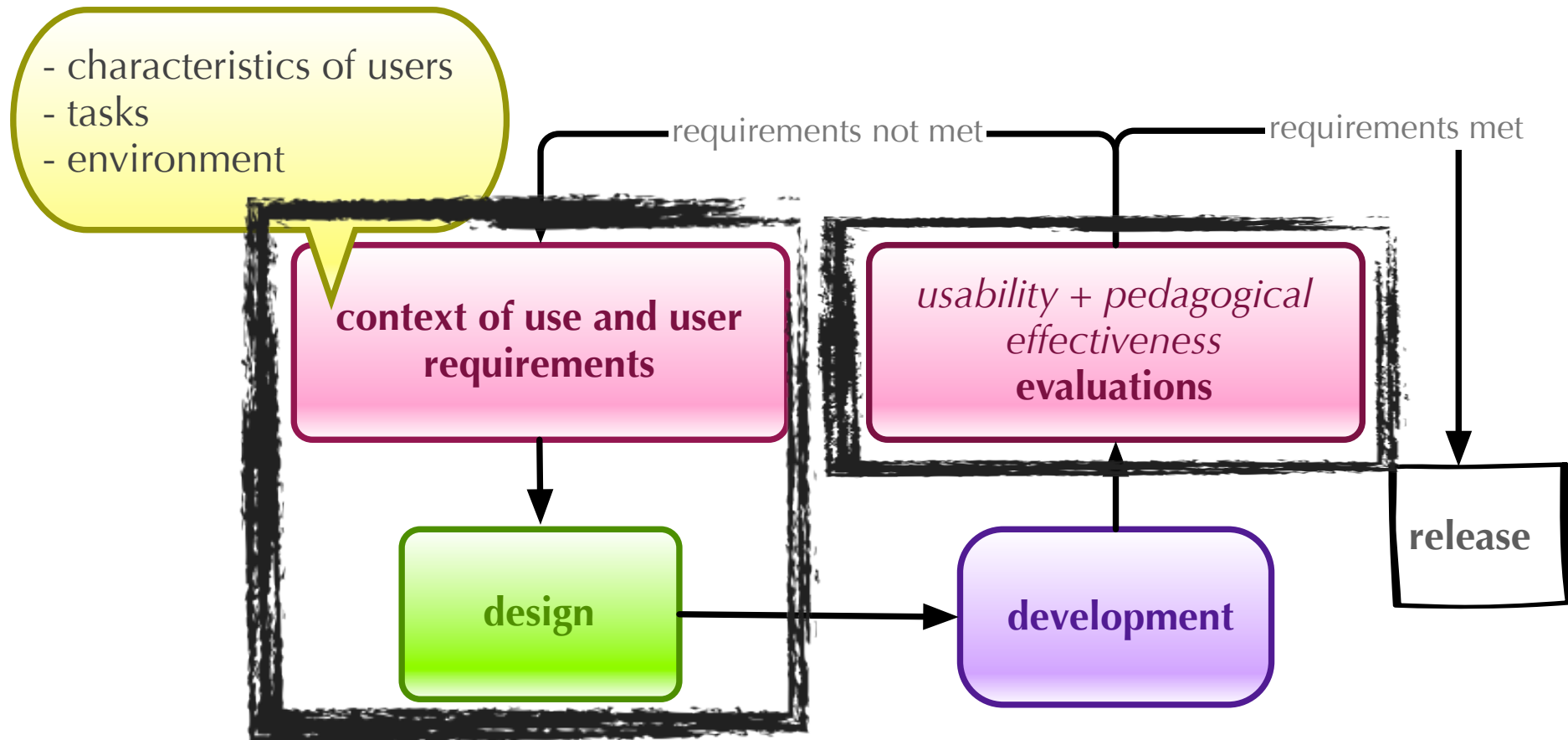


# The TERENCE Goals in a Nutshell

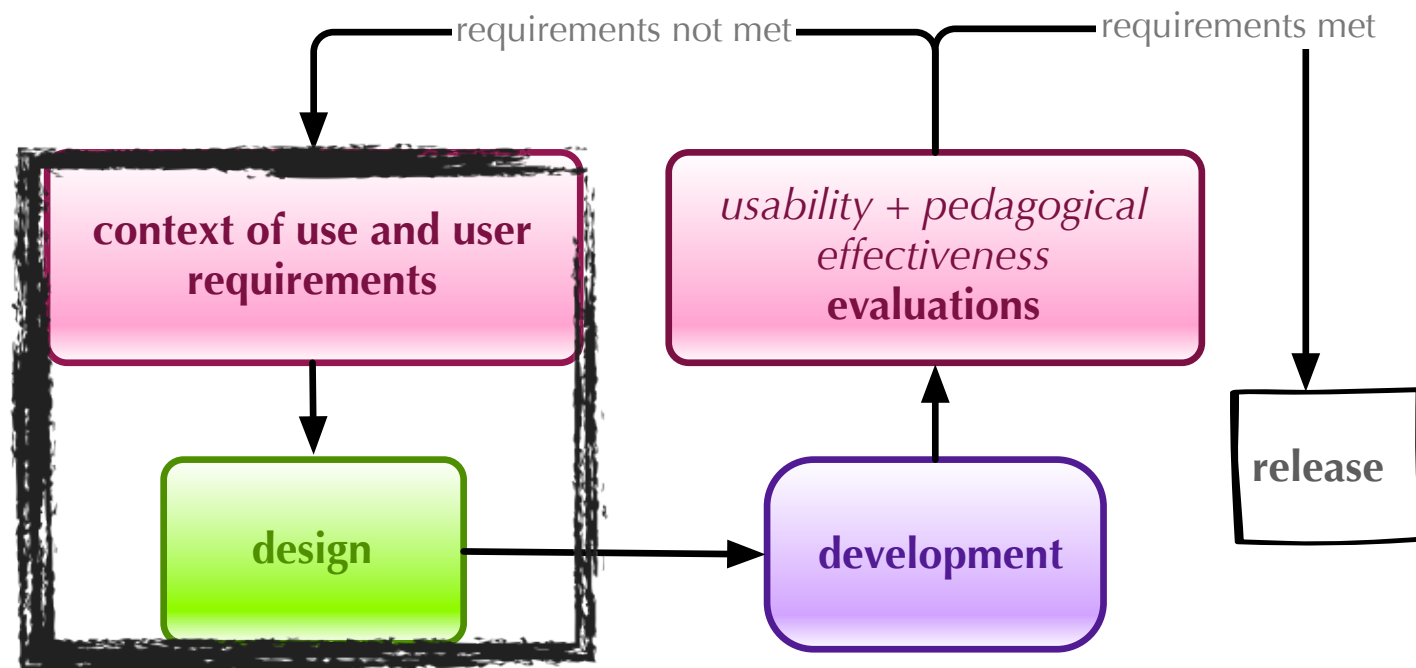


- The **goals** of the TERENCE system are
    - to stimulate and assess reading comprehension
    - by developing and recommending adequate learning **material** and effective learning **tasks**
    - for its **learners**
  - then we decided to
    - **design** the TERENCE system by merging the user centred and evidence based
-

- ✓ UCD is from interaction design and EBD is from evidence based medicine



GOLDEN BULLETS	HOW WE GET IT WITH UCD+EBD
adequate material	by involving all users in the context of use analysis (UCD)
effective tasks	by letting stimulation plan experts frame the tasks within a stimulation plan (EBD)
recommendation	by analysing the characteristics of learners and designing the system recommendation accordingly





# Latest Stage



## GOLDEN BULLETS

## HOW WE GET IT WITH UCD+EBD

adequate material

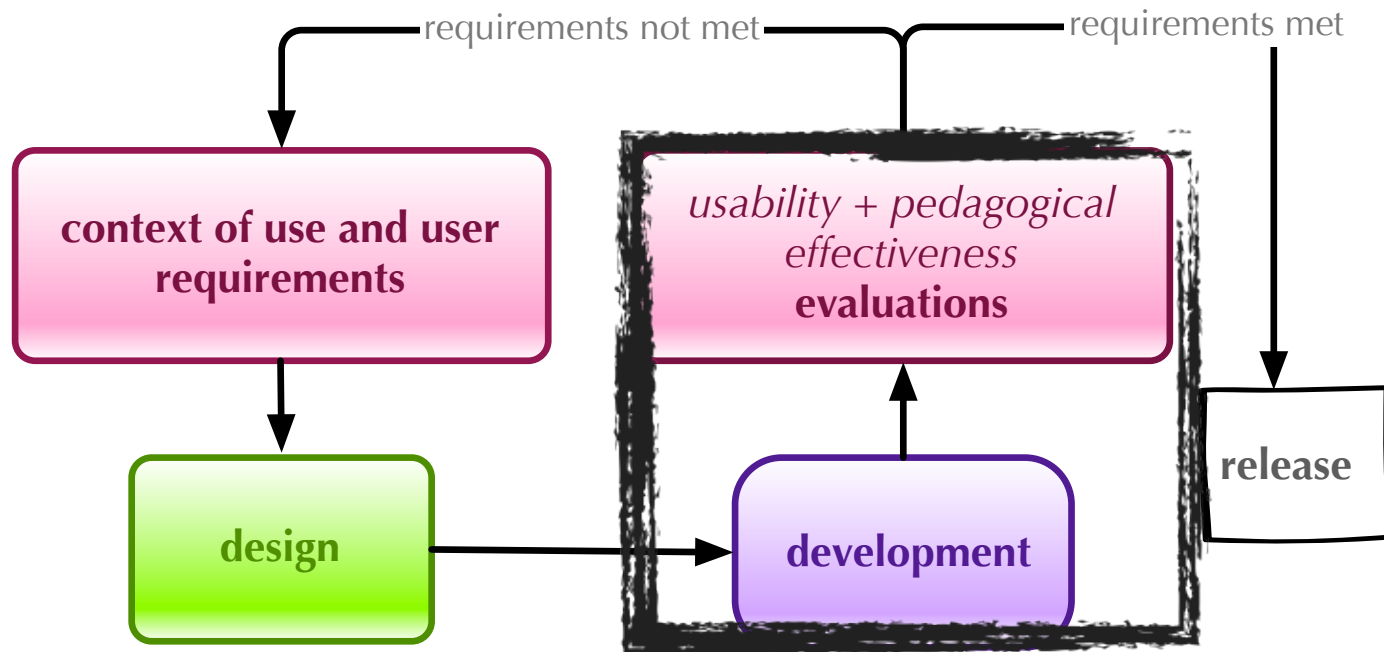
via pedagogical evaluations

effective tasks

by pedagogical evaluations

recommendation

by usability evaluations





# STEP II: What

STEP I - Introduction: the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

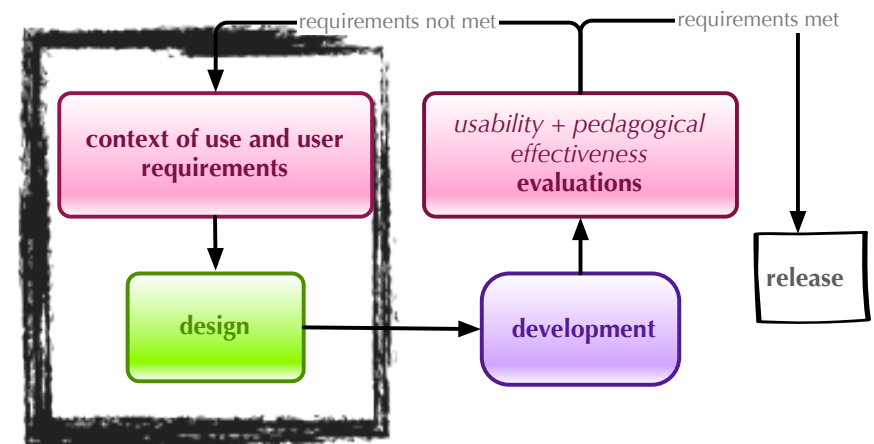
STEP II - **What**: the design of the learning material and tasks

- a. the data for the learning material
- b. the design of material and tasks of the system

STEP III - **Who**: users and adaptation

STEP IV - **How**: the evaluation of the material and adaptation

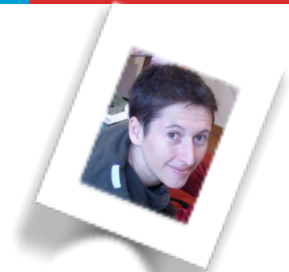
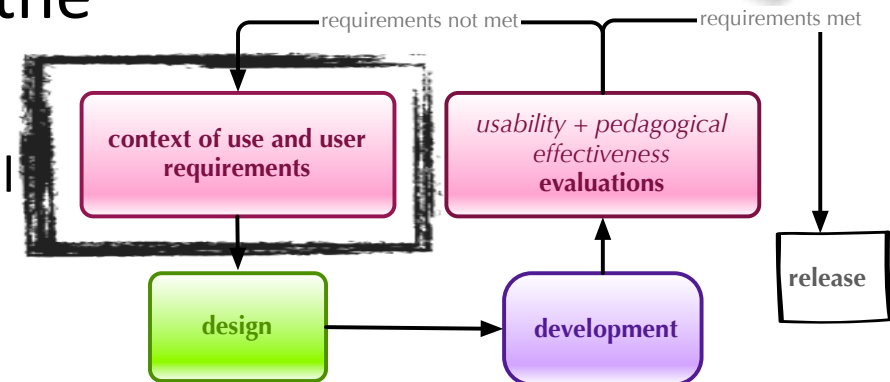
STEP V - **The end**: conclusions



STEP I - Introduction: the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

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STEP IV - **How**: the evaluation of the material and adaptation

STEP V - **The end**: conclusions

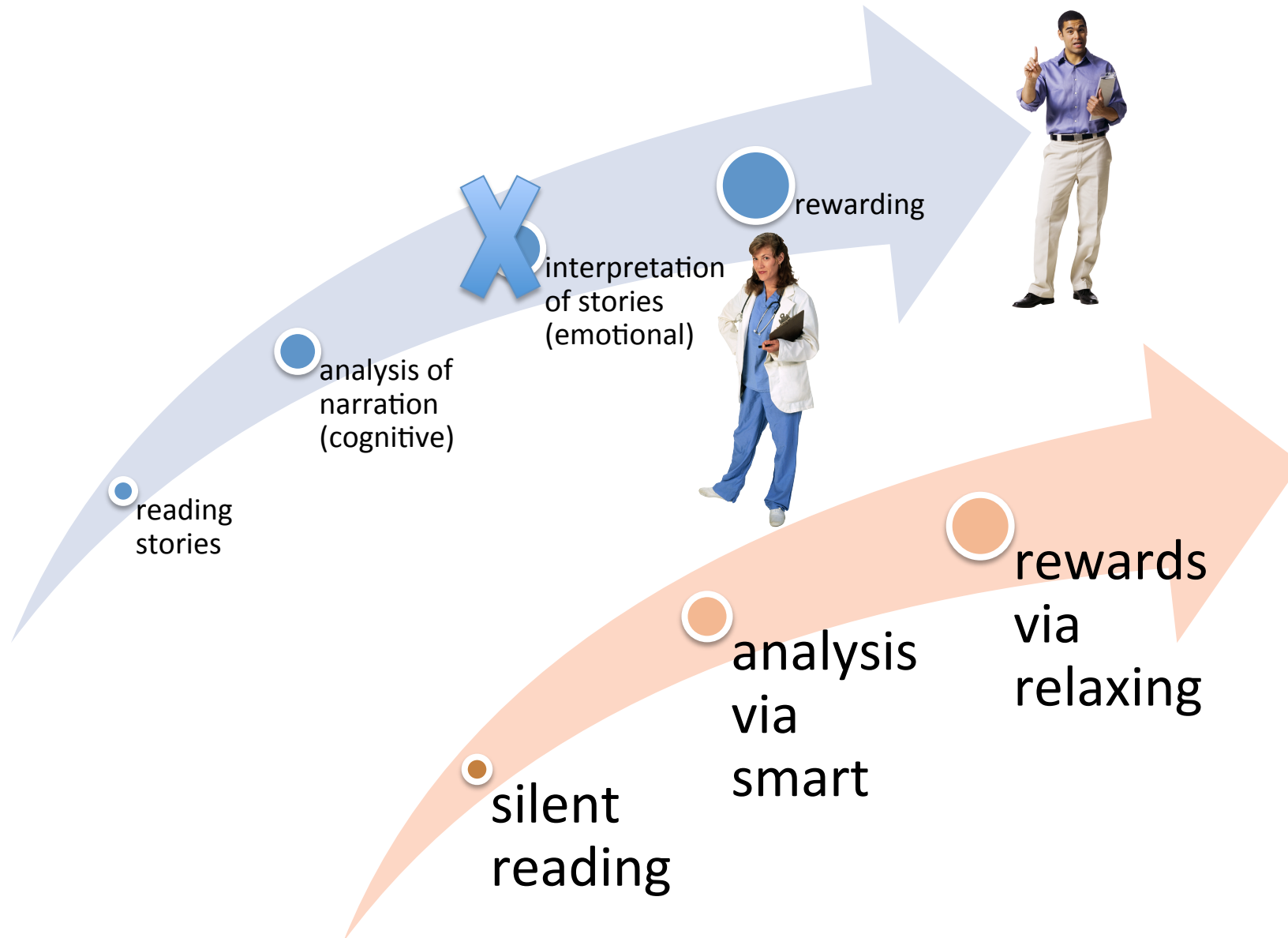


- **Data**: the main data for designing the learning material (stories and games) and tasks (reading and playing) are from
  - **contextual inquiries** with
    - IT & UK diagnosis
    - IT & USA evidence-based medicine therapy experts
  - **field studies** with educators
- **Educators** in the field studies:
  - 30 in Italy and 15 in UK
- **Diagnosis or therapy** experts:
  - 6 in Italy, 4 in UK and USA



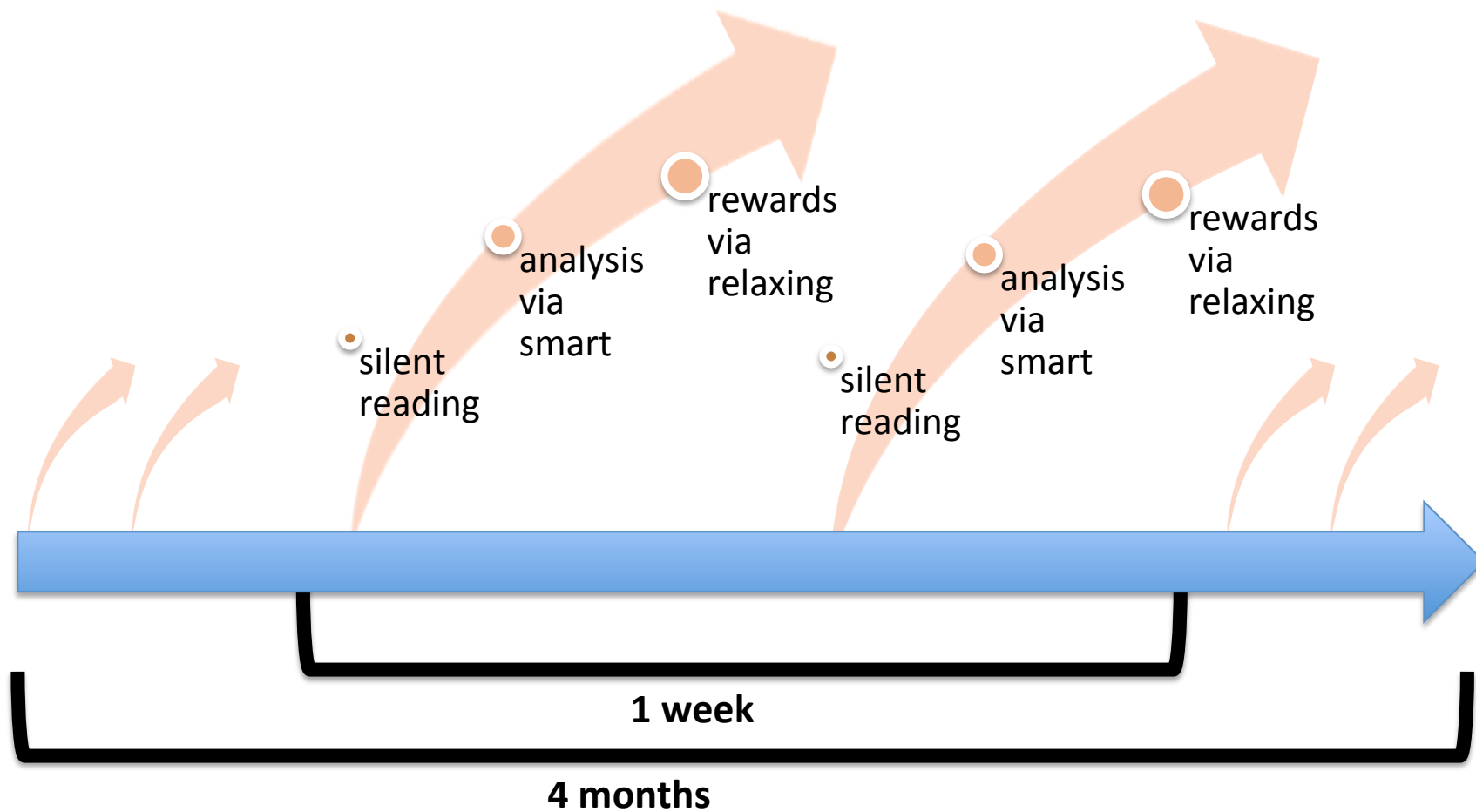


# Learning Tasks





# Scheduling of Learning Tasks



STEP I - Introduction: the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

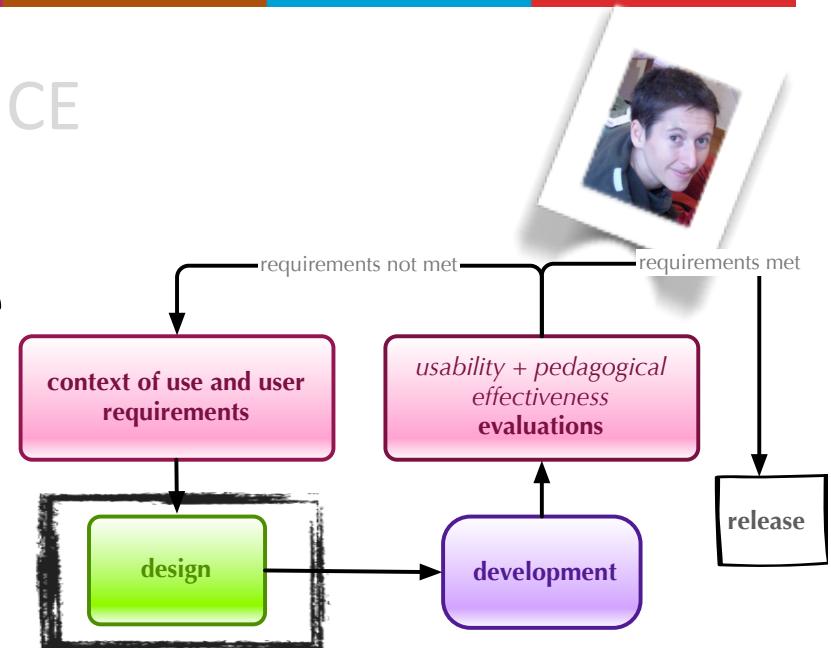
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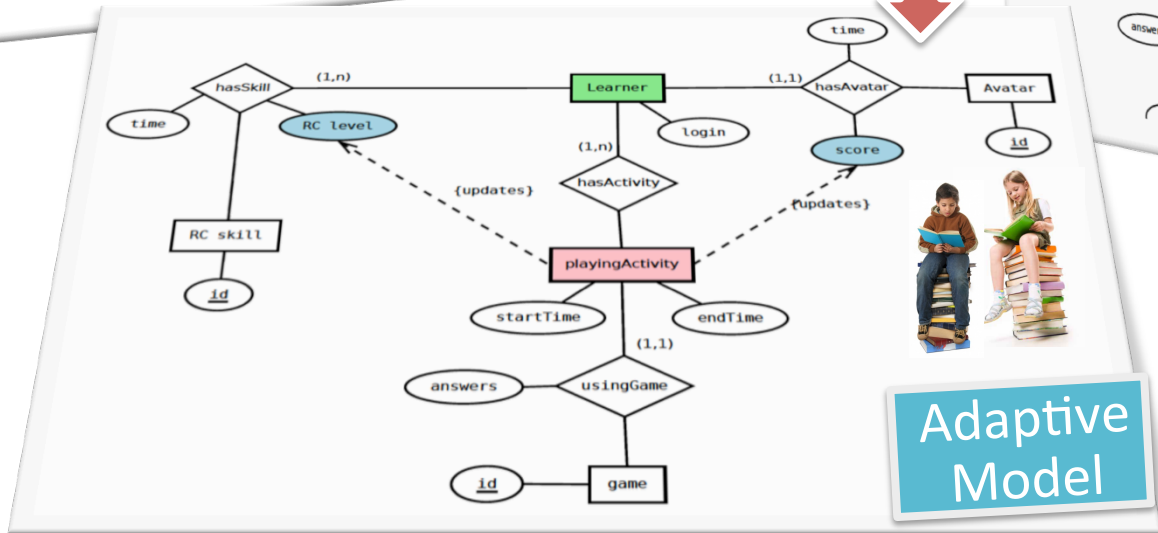
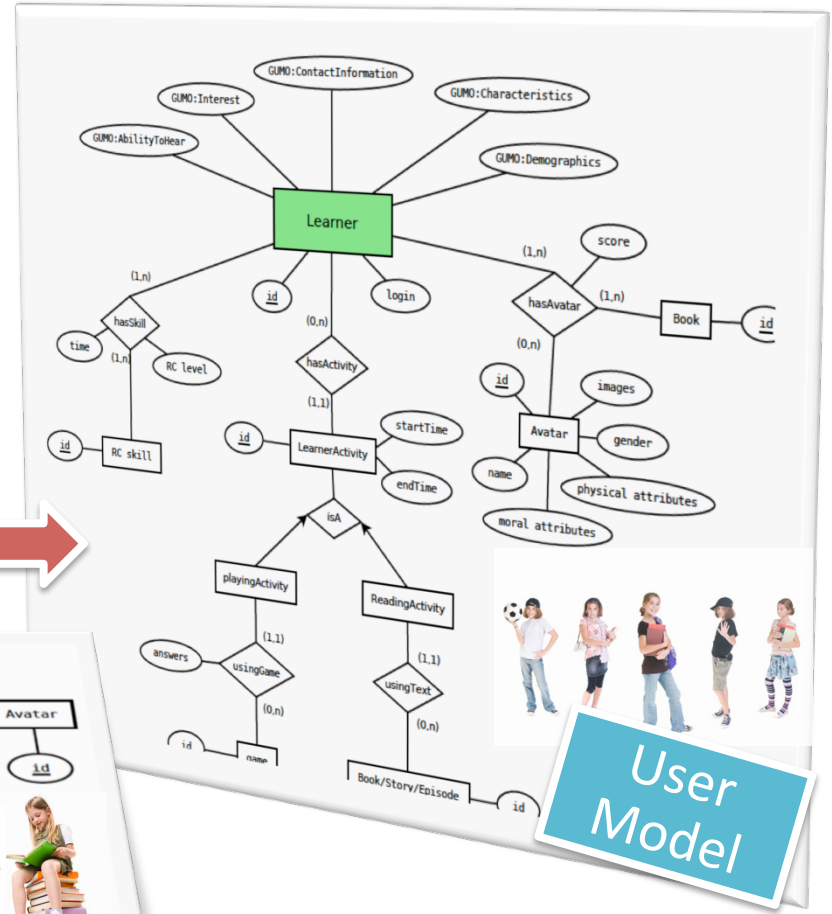
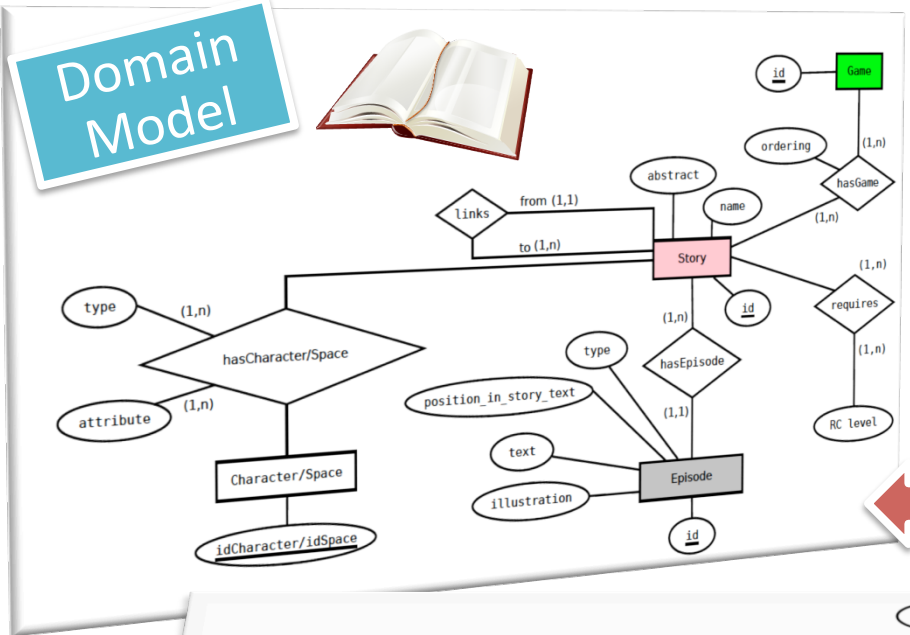
# Usage for Stories and Games



- The requirements for the learning material and tasks were used to
  - design the conceptual model of the ALS
  - design the books of stories
  - design stories in levels
  - design relaxing and smart games, e.g.,
    - \*the levels of game
    - \*the game framework and rules

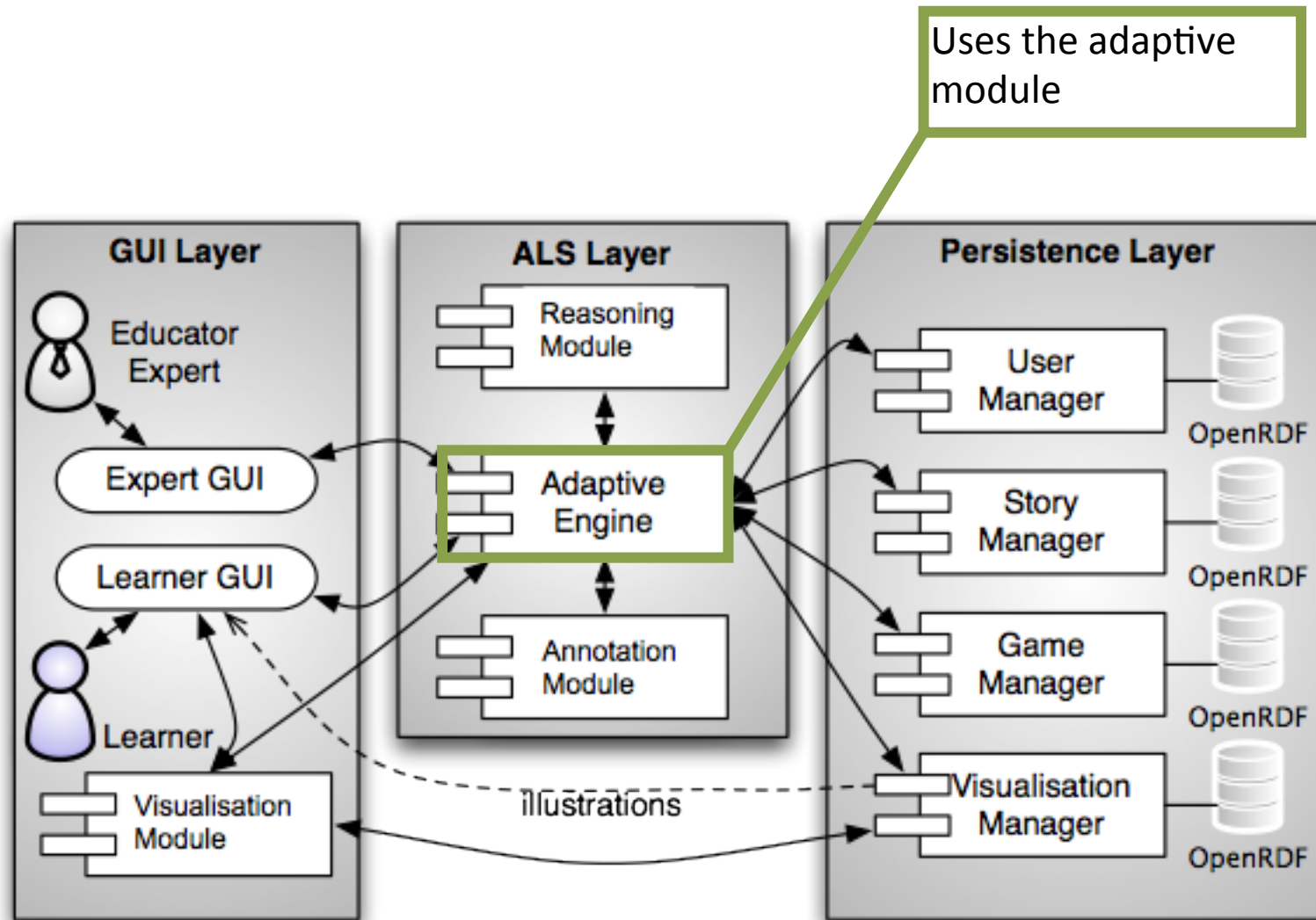
# Conceptual Model

Domain Model



Adaptive Model

User Model





# Usage for Stories and Games



- The requirements for the learning material and tasks were used to
  - design the books of stories
  - design stories in levels for the TERENCE learners
  - design relaxing and smart games, e.g.,
    - \*the levels of game
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# Design of Stories



**Structure:** in general, a good story should have

- a setting,
- an initiating event,
- an internal response,
- an attempt,
- a consequence and a reaction or final solution.

**Plot:** stories and characters should be appealing to **nowadays'** young readers: narrative should be greater than descriptive content, with a focus on protagonists' goals, actions and reactions

**Characters:** animate characters (persons, robots, ghosts, animals etc.) are preferred for children **aged 7-11**

**Length:** prefer short stories or stories segmented into short episodes for the **TERENCE learners**

**Levels:** stories are divided into 4 levels of varying text complexity and coherence (see next slide) for the **TERENCE learners**



# Levels of Stories (UniPD, UoS)



Learner Level	Acquired skills		
	Global Coherence	Local Cohesion	Lexicon/syntax
Level 1	Poor	Poor	Poor
Level 2	Poor	Poor	Good
Level 3	Poor	Good	Good
Level 4	Good	Good	Good



# Usage for Stories and Games



- The requirements for the learning material and tasks were used to
  - design the books of stories
  - design stories in levels for the TERENCE learners
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# Usage for Stories and Games



- The requirements for the learning material and tasks were used to
  - design the books of stories
  - design stories in levels for the TERENCE learners
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    - \*the levels of game
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# Rules for Smart Games



Design of rules depends on the stimulation plan and its organisation constraints, e.g., on **time**:

Learner actions	States of the system	Constraints
no solution	interaction feedback	time for interaction f.
	solution feedback	time for solution f.
correct solution	“yes”-consistency feedback	
wrong solution	“no”-consistency feedback explanatory feedback	



# Consistency and Explanatory Feedback



Before While SMART GAMES

2 GAME POINTS 0 TOTAL

NO!

Sophie sits in the back row on the bus

Anabel tells Sophie and Ben her name

The cars are stuck on the road

QUESTION: What happens before? What happens during?

SKIP >

← consistency feedback

← explanatory feedback



# Game Framework



Instructions	Questions	Motivational	Interaction
Choices	Availability is state dependent		
Solutions	Choices or their combinations that are correct/wrong (c/w) solutions		
Feedback	Interaction	Consistency (c/w)	Solution
Smart points	Proportional to the learner's ability in the game level		
Relaxing points	Constant		
Avatar	Happy/sad states		
Time	solution constant		interaction constant
Rules	States of the system, actions of the learner, constraints		



# Framework → Structures → Data



Instructions	Questions	Motivational	Interaction
Choices	Availability is state dependent		
Solutions	Choices or their combinations that are correct/wrong (c/w) solutions		
Feedback	Interaction	Consistency (c/w)	Explanatory Solution
Smart points	Proportional to the learner's ability in the game level		
Relaxing points	Constant		
Avatar	Happy/sad states		
Time	solution constant	interaction constant	
Rules	States of the system, actions of the learner, constraints		



```
<smart_games xmlns:ns2="http://terenceproject.eu/timeml">
  <who>...
  <choices>
    <correct>CORRECT</correct>
    <entity id="1977"/>
    <text></text>
  </choices>
  ...
  <event>to see</event>
  <instructions></instructions>
</who>
```

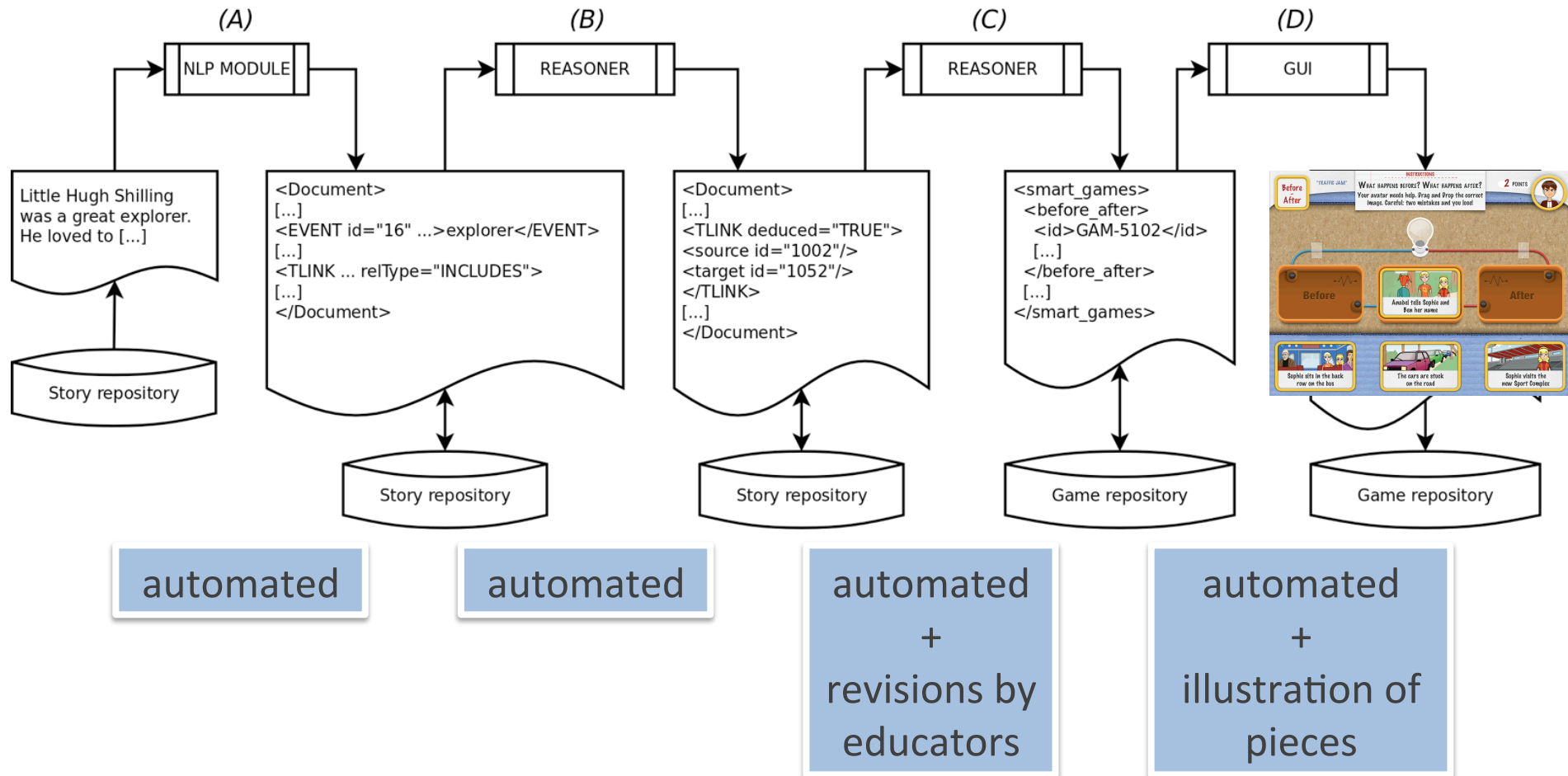
```
<before_after>...
<choices>
<correct>AFTER</correct>
  <event tense="PAST" mood="" id="938"
class="OCCURRENCE" polarity="" pred="to launch">launched</
event>
  <text>Ida launches herself into the icy water.</text>
</choices>
<choices>
...
<event vform="" aspect="" modality="" morphology=""
tense="PAST" mood="" id="824" pos="" class="OCCURRENCE"
polarity="" pred="to disappear">disappeared</event>
  <instructions>Aidan disappears from sight.</instructions>
</before_after>
```

reasoning

natural language generation







Before  
-  
After

"TRAFFIC JAM"

INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE? WHAT HAPPENS AFTER?  
Your avatar needs help. Drag and Drop the correct  
image. Careful: two mistakes and you lose!

2 POINTS



Before



Anabel tells Sophie and  
Ben her name

After



Sophie sits in the back  
row on the bus



The cars are stuck  
on the road



Sophie visits the  
new Sport Complex



# Brainstorming



- Suggestions for **stories**?
- Suggestions for **games**, e.g., adding games concerning whether
  - a character in a story/event has certain
    - goals
    - emotions
    - behaviours
    - good/bad relations with other characters (D1.1, D1.4)?
- Other suggestions?



# STEP III: Who

**STEP I - Introduction:** the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

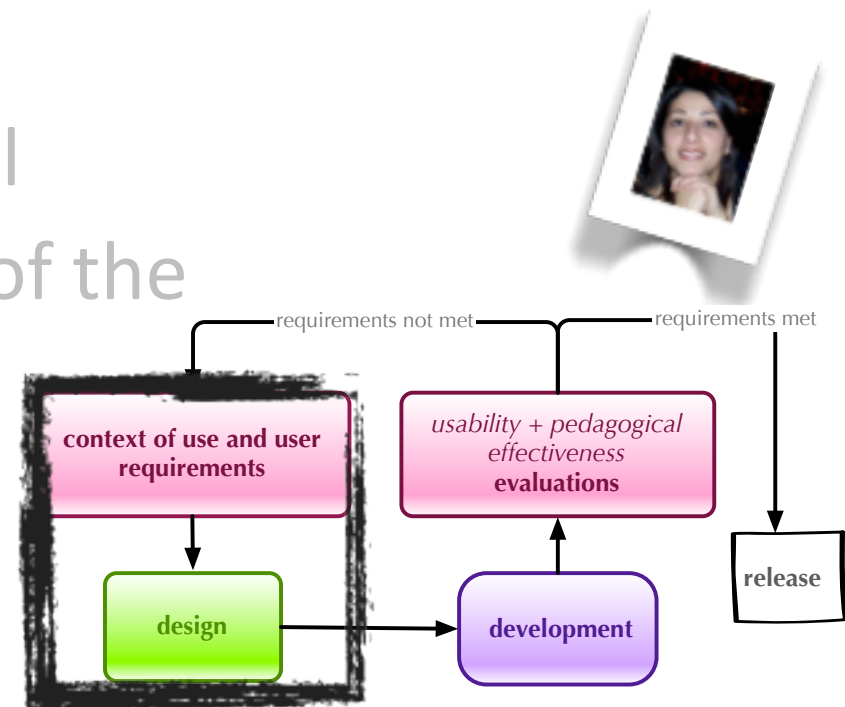
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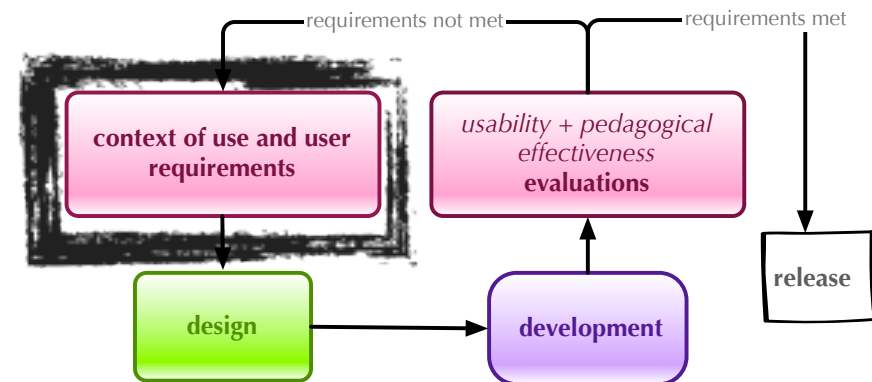
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# From Types to Classes of Users



Stakeholder	Type	Classes
Primary (main end user)	Learner: deaf, hearing	?
Secondary (input to the system)	Educator	?
Secondary (input to the system)	Expert	?

  
**how**



# Data Gathering for Classification



**Data:** the main data for defining classes are from

1) brainstorming meetings and inquiries with diagnosis experts

2) field studies

– **participants:** in the field studies

- 282 learners in Italy and

- 226 learners in UK

**Goals:** requirements concerning reading comprehension (RC) and interaction for the adaptation





## Console Activity

**Goal:** to learn about their favorite consoles and game consoles

**Description:** learners have sheets with stickers for game consoles and a map. They put the sticker of their favourite console in the centre of the map, and answer the questions on the map, e.g., (1) where do you play this?, (2) why do you play with this?

**Material:** stickers; sheets



## Character Activity

**Goal:** to learn about their favorite game characters or avatars

**Description:** each learner, in turn, chooses a card from the container; learners are asked their opinion about the extracted characters

**Material:** character cards; container

CARDS

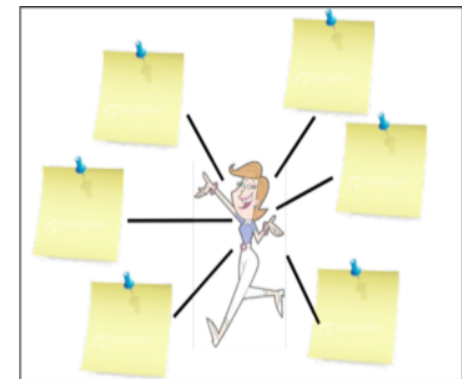
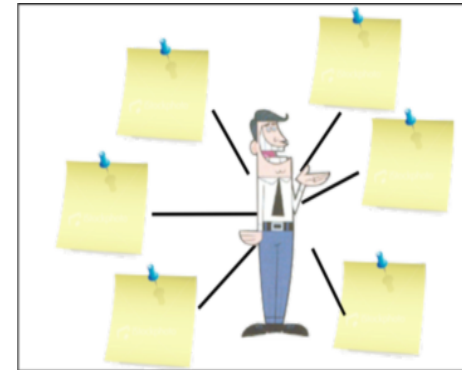


## Interaction with Parents Activity

**Goal:** to learn about what they do with their parents

**Description:** learners receive a sheet with a picture of a mum, and another with that of a dad. They are asked to list six (or less or more) activities they often do together with their mum or dad

**Material:** post-it






# Data Analysis for Interaction



- Data **management**: data were stored in a data base (open office)
- **Statistic analysis** (STATA):
  - natural variables like gender and age were defined
  - other dichotomy variables were derived
- Data **analysis**:
  - associations of variables for a first classification (e.g., North/Centre)
  - then a refinement of it according to the relevance of the classes for the ALS

Type	# Classes	Clustering
Learners	5 in IT	age
		deafness level
	3 in UK	gender
		area (rural, town)
Educators	4	country
		experience
		technical skill
		age
Experts		gender
		role

Characteristics	
	<p><b>Persona Name:</b> Carla.  <b>Age:</b> 11.  <b>Gender:</b> Female.  <b>Classroom:</b> III.  <b>Comprehension skill:</b> Poor Comprehender.  <b>Deaf/hearing:</b> Deaf.</p>
<b>Summary of the class represented by this persona</b>	Represents the class of children aged between 7 and 11 years old. Deaf belonging to an Italian school. Has passion for drawing. She writes every day in her secret diary. Good use of technologies for research on Internet.
<b>Personality</b>	She is polite and quiet.
<b>Role in classroom</b>	She is active, careful, and diligent.
<b>Role out of the class</b>	She is nice, responsible and kind.
<b>Console/Technology</b>	She plays with the Nintendo Wii and DS; she uses the computer to browse and chat with friends. She uses the technology alone.
<b>Socio-Cultural Level of his/her own family</b>	High.
<b>School performance</b>	She learns very easily. Differently than 2 years ago, her level of frustration is increased with age.
Environment	
<b>Time spent with family</b>	She does her homework with her parents, she spends her time with her mother and she draws and reads stories with her father.
<b>Time spent with friends</b>	She meets her cousin every day to do homework or to play with her. She goes out with her friends after her homework.
<b>Homework</b>	She does her homework in the afternoon supported by parents.
Life style	
<b>Outdoors Activities</b>	She likes to see friends regularly, she likes to going out and plays with her dog, and she likes to do shopping with her grandmother.
<b>Indoors Activities</b>	She plays with Nintendo Wii, and DS, She read, writes, and draws. She likes to play with her cousin.
<b>Home activities</b>	She read fairy tales with dad, she watch TV and she chat with her friends.
<b>Sport activities</b>	She loves walking and cycling with her mom.



# Requirements



Type of Requirements	Subtype	ID	Colour Code
Non-functional	Data	NF_DR	Yellow
	Physical	NF_PER	Light Green
	Constraint	NF_CR	Orange
	Interface	NF_IR	Olive Green
	Technological Environment	NF_TER	Red
	User(s)	NF_USR	Blue
	Usability	NF_UR	Purple
Functional		FR	Grey



# Learner Requirements



<i>Requirement</i>	Le_NF_TER 1
<i>Type</i>	Technical environment requirement– Non-functional requirement.
<i>Description</i>	The system should have a size of 10.1”.
<i>Motivation</i>	Children need a device large enough to be usable, and the 10.1” touch screen is a good size for touch screens because it allows a correct view of all the elements on the screen.
<i>Source</i>	D1.1 - Section 8.2.1.1.1
<i>Priority</i>	Medium



# Learner Requirements



<i>Requirement</i>	Le_FR_5
<i>Type</i>	Functional requirement.
<i>Description</i>	The system will allow learners to choose a book in a guided modality.
<i>Motivation</i>	Learners, in guided mode, choose a book. The system starts from the first story, and “unlocks” new stories according to the comprehension skills they demonstrated during the training (i.e. reading and game solving).
<i>Source</i>	Brainstorming and inquiries, D2.2, D2.3
<i>Priority</i>	High





# Learner Requirements



<i>Requirement</i>	Le_FR_12
<i>Type</i>	Functional requirement.
<i>Description</i>	The system will show games after each story.
<i>Motivation</i>	After each story, the system shall show a set of smart games and relaxing games according to the stimulation plan.
<i>Source</i>	D2.1, D2.3 and brainstorming with Jane Oakhill and Dina Di Giacomo.
<i>Priority</i>	High



# Learner Requirements



<i>Requirement</i>	Le_FR_29
<i>Type</i>	Functional requirement.
<i>Description</i>	<p>Independently of the all considered variables (e.g., gender), the order of preference of avatar is as follows: person, fantasy, and animal. Instead, if we consider the gender of learners, we have the following refinement of the above order:</p> <p>Male: person PR, person NPR, fantasy NPR, fantasy PR, and animal NPR.</p> <p>Female: fantasy NPR, person NPR, person PR, animal NPR, fantasy PR.</p>
<i>Motivation</i>	Learner Persona Framework.
<i>Source</i>	WD1.2.

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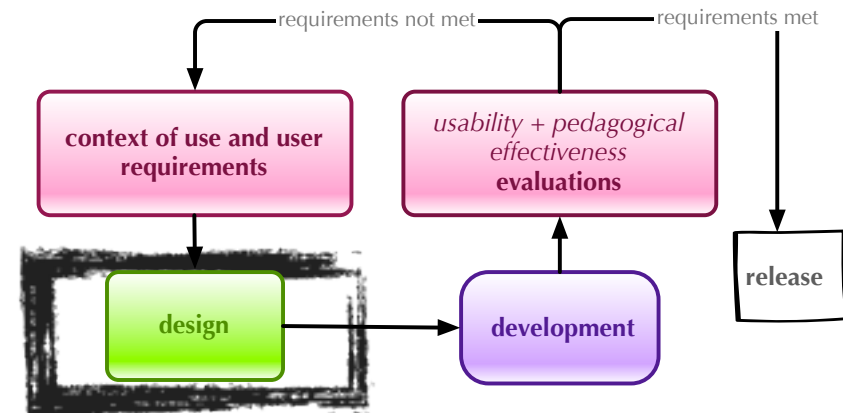
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# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



Relevant bio information	
Age range	younger, older
Gender	male, female
Reading comprehension	4 levels
Deafness	with/without cochlear implants,...
Area	urban, rural



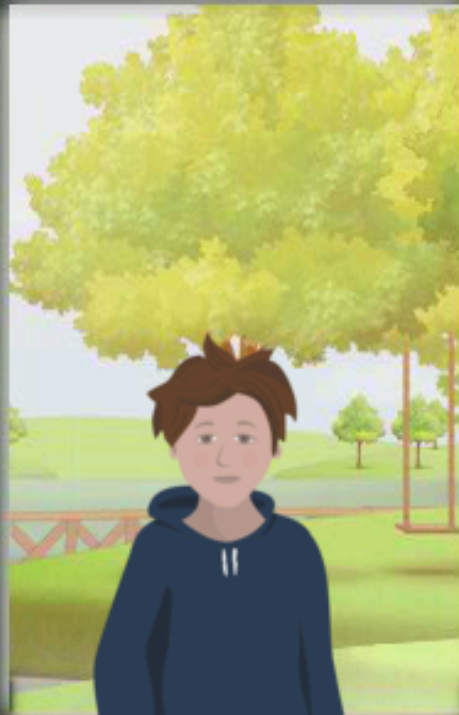
# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



**Avatar:** age, gender and area affect the type of preferred avatar (field studies, Le\_FR\_29):

- all, independently of their age, prefer **human-like** avatars to fantasy or animal avatars
  - ▶ to all, present first human-like avatars
- female learners definitely prefer **fantasy** avatars to animal avatars
  - ▶ if female learner then present fantasy animals before animal avatars
- older children prefer photorealistic avatars, contrary to younger children
  - ▶ if older then present photorealistic avatars as first, else vice-versa

# CHOOSE YOUR AVATAR



NEXT ►



# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



Relevant bio information	
Age range	younger, older
Gender	male, female
Reading comprehension	4 levels
Deafness	with/without cochlear implants,...
Area	urban, rural



# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



**Book:** age, gender and area affect the types of preferred book genres (field studies, Le\_FR\_4), e.g.,

- older children prefer books that talk about emotions, albeit male learners prefer adventure on top
- whereas younger children books are more focused on actions



CHOOSE YOUR BOOK



NEXT ►



# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



## Relevant bio information

Age range	younger, olders
Gender	male, female
Reading comprehension	4 levels
Deafness	with/without cochlear implants,...
Area	urban, rural



## **Stories** (brainstorming, D2.2; Le\_FR\_5, Le\_FR\_7):

- if a learner is hearing poor comprehender then story level 3
- if a learner is deaf poor comprehender
  1. with cochlear implant then story level 2
  2. without cochlear implant then story level 1



# Usage of RC levels for Story Levels



Story and RC levels matching: (brainstorming, D2.2; Le\_FR\_5, Le\_FR\_7)



Story level	RC skills		
	Global Coherence	Local Cohesion	Vocabulary/ Syntax
Level 1	simplified	simplified	simplified
Level 2	simplified	simplified	not simplified
Level 3	simplified	not simplified	not simplified
Level 4	not simplified	not simplified	not simplified

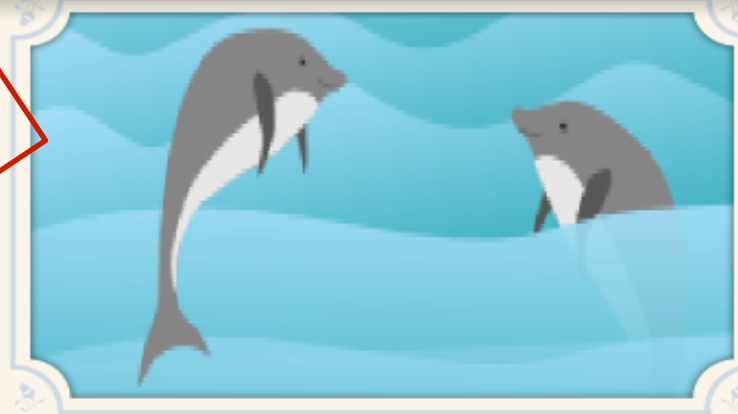
Learner level	Acquired RC skills		
	Global Coherence	Local Cohesion	Vocubular/ Syntax
Level 1	Poor	Poor	Poor
Level 2	Poor	Poor	Good
Level 3	Poor	Good	Good
Level 4	Good	Good	Good



## READ THE STORY



**Level 4**



Ida and Sim had never been camping before and they had never been to the seaside before. **Not in Ida's nine years or Sim's seven years.** Today **they** were leaving their little flat in the city and going on **holiday**.

When **they** finally arrived at the campsite they **tumbled** out of the car. Then they stood and stared. It was beautiful: the campsite was a strip of **emerald** green grass dotted with tents, then there was a long stripe of yellow beach and beyond that the **turquoise** sea and the **brilliant** blue sky.

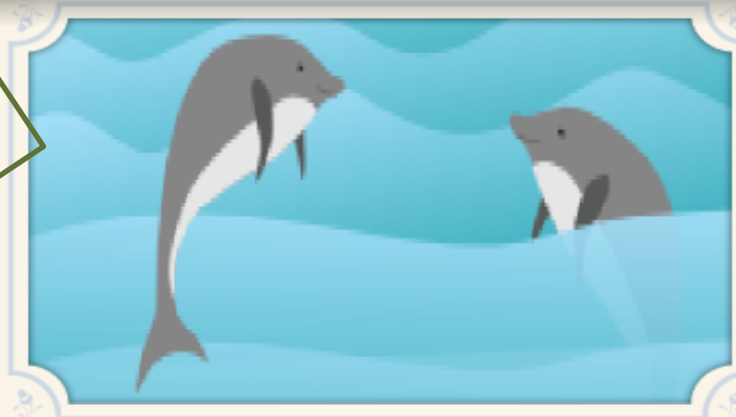




## READ THE STORY



Level 1



Ida and Sim had never been camping before and they had never been to the seaside before, **even though Ida was nine and Sim was seven**. Today **Ida and Sim** were leaving their little flat in the city and going on **a summer** holiday.

When **Ida and Sim** finally arrived at the campsite they **got** out of the car. Then they stood and stared. It was beautiful **there**: the campsite was a strip of **dark** green grass dotted with tents, then there was a long stripe of yellow beach and beyond that the deep **blue** sea and the **bright** blue sky.



# Learner Characteristics for Adaptation



Relevant bio information	
..	..
Reading comprehension	4 levels
...	...

Relevant personality traits	
...	...
Takes up challenges	yes, no
Frustration management	high, low
...	...



**Smart games** (brainstorming, D2.3; Le\_FR\_n, for  $11 < n < 29$ ):

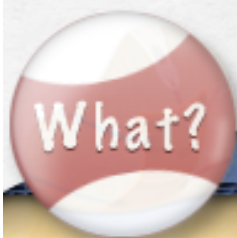
- the RC skill affects
  1. which levels of games are presented
  2. in which order
  3. as well as the points
- whether the learner is willing to take up challenges and the management of frustration can affect the timings of smart games, i.e., span of smart game session



more difficult →

Learner Level	Smart Games								
	Character		Time				Causality		
	Who	What	Before-After	Before-While	While-After	Before-While-After	Effect	Cause	Cause-Effect
Level 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Level 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Level 4			X	X	X	X	X	X	X

more skilled ↓



"TRAFFIC JAM"

## WHAT DOES SOPHIE DO IN THE STORY?

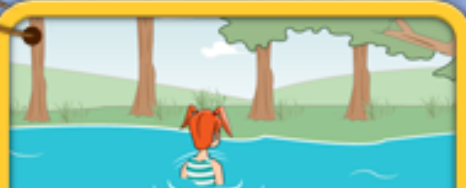
### INSTRUCTIONS

Your avatar needs help. Drag and Drop the correct image. Careful: two mistakes and you lose!

2 POINTS



Sophie sits in the back row of the bus



Sophie dives into cold water



Sophie visits the new Sport Complex





"TRAFFIC JAM"

## WHICH IS THE CAUSE?

### INSTRUCTIONS

Your avatar needs help. Choose the correct image. Careful: two mistakes and you lose!

2 POINTS



The passengers do not remove Anabel from the roadside



**Cause**



**Effect**



The dog stands right in front of Anabel



Sophie sits in the back row of the bus



Sophie visits the new Sport Complex



# Brainstorming



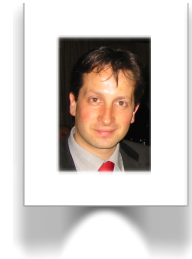
- Educators
- Experts
- New characteristics of learners?
- Suggestions?



# Step IV: How



# Thread - Outline



**STEP I - Introduction:** the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

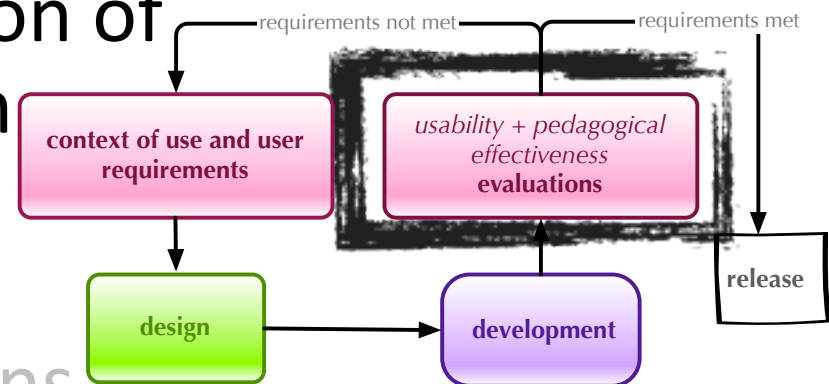
**STEP II - What:** the design of the learning material and tasks

**STEP III - Who:** users and adaptation

**STEP IV - How:** the evaluation of the material and adaptation

- expert based evaluation
- user based evaluation

**STEP V - The end:** conclusions





# Expert vs User based Evaluation

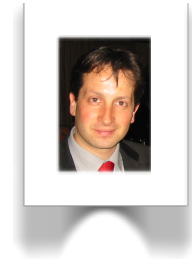


Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
User-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Most realistic estimate of usability</li><li>- Can give clear record of relevant problems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Time consuming</li><li>- Costly for large sample of users</li><li>- Requires high-fidelity prototype</li></ul>
Expert-based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cheap</li><li>- Fast</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Expert-variability affects outcome</li><li>- May overestimate true number of problems</li></ul>

	Expert-based	User-based	
		Small-scale	Large-scale
Learning material	X	X	X
Software usability	X	X	X
Effectiveness			X
	<b>Jun 12, Dec 12</b>	<b>Sep 12</b>	<b>Jun 13</b>

- Expert-based evaluation and small-scale evaluation
  - Main focus on usability so to remove biases for the large-scale evaluation
- Large-scale evaluation
  - Main focus on pedagogical effectiveness





**STEP I - Introduction:** the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

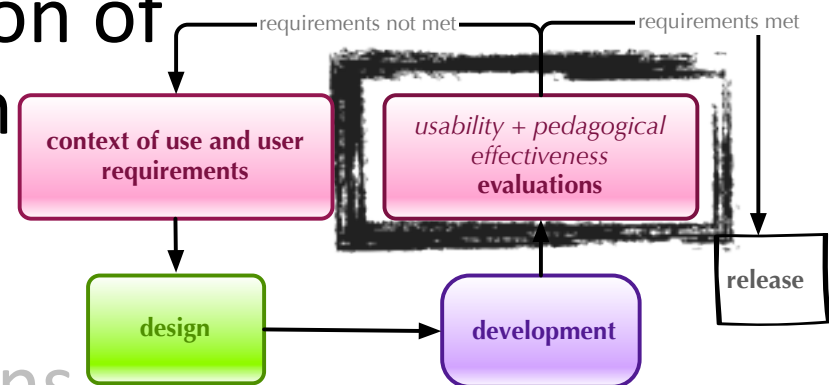
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# Expert-based evaluation



## Learning material:

	<b>N. of items</b>	<b>Intended age range</b>
Textual stories	16	Younger learners, 8-9 year old
	9	Older learners, 9-11 year old
Story illustrations	97	Younger learners, 8-9 year old
	65	Older learners, 9-11 year old
Textual smart games	30	Younger learners, 8-9 year old
	21	Older learners, 9-11 year old



# Learning Material



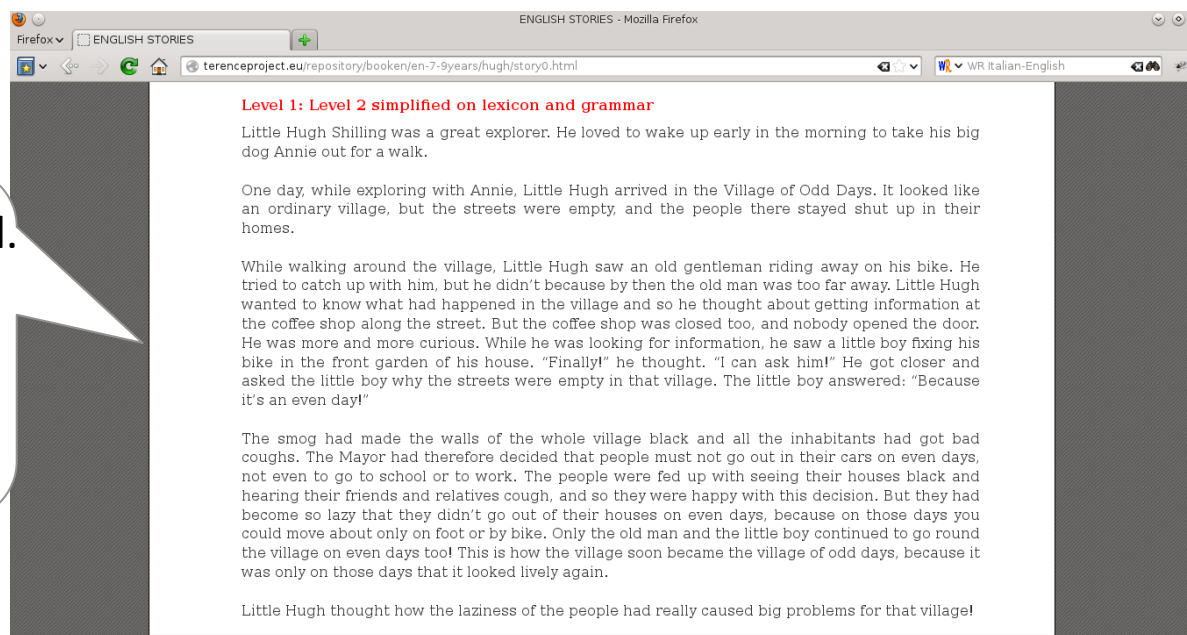
## Evaluators:

Material	Evauator	Expertise	Country	Used method
Story levels	M Marshark	Deaf people	US	Heuristic evaluation
	A Marini	Language	Italy	Heuristic evaluation
	S Baldascino	Education	Italy	Heuristic evaluation
	G Danese	Education	Italy	Heuristic evaluation
	R Bove	Education	Italy	Heuristic evaluation
Story illustrations	M Carlini	Design	Italy	Heuristic evaluation
	D Di Giacomo	Semantics	Italy	Expert review
	J Oakhill	Poor compr.	UK	Expert review
Textual smart games	B Arfé	Deaf people	Italy	Expert review
	J Oakhill	Poor compr.	UK	Expert review
	S Sullivan	Deaf people	UK	Expert review

## Experts for story levels

- G1.** the story at level N-1 is easier than that the same story at level N,
- G2.** the story at level N-1 is simpler for the considered reading comprehension skill than the same story at level N,
- G3.** the story at level 1 is comprehensible for deaf readers of the intended age range,
- G4.** the story at level 3 is comprehensible for hearing poor comprehenders of the intended age range.

The results are positive in general.  
The stories at level 1 were deemed suitable for deaf learners only in 20% of the evaluated cases.



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying "terenceproject.eu/repository/booken/en-7-9years/hugh/story0.html". The page content includes a title "Level 1: Level 2 simplified on lexicon and grammar" and several paragraphs of text. The text describes a story about a boy named Little Hugh Shilling who is an explorer. He goes to a village called "Village of Odd Days" where the streets are empty and people are shut up in their homes. He encounters an old man on a bike and a little boy fixing a bike. The story concludes with a description of smog in the village and how it affects the people's lives.

## Experts for story illustrations

**G1.** to assess the coherence between the story text, its illustration and between the illustration choices;

**G2.** to assess technical aspects of the illustrations.

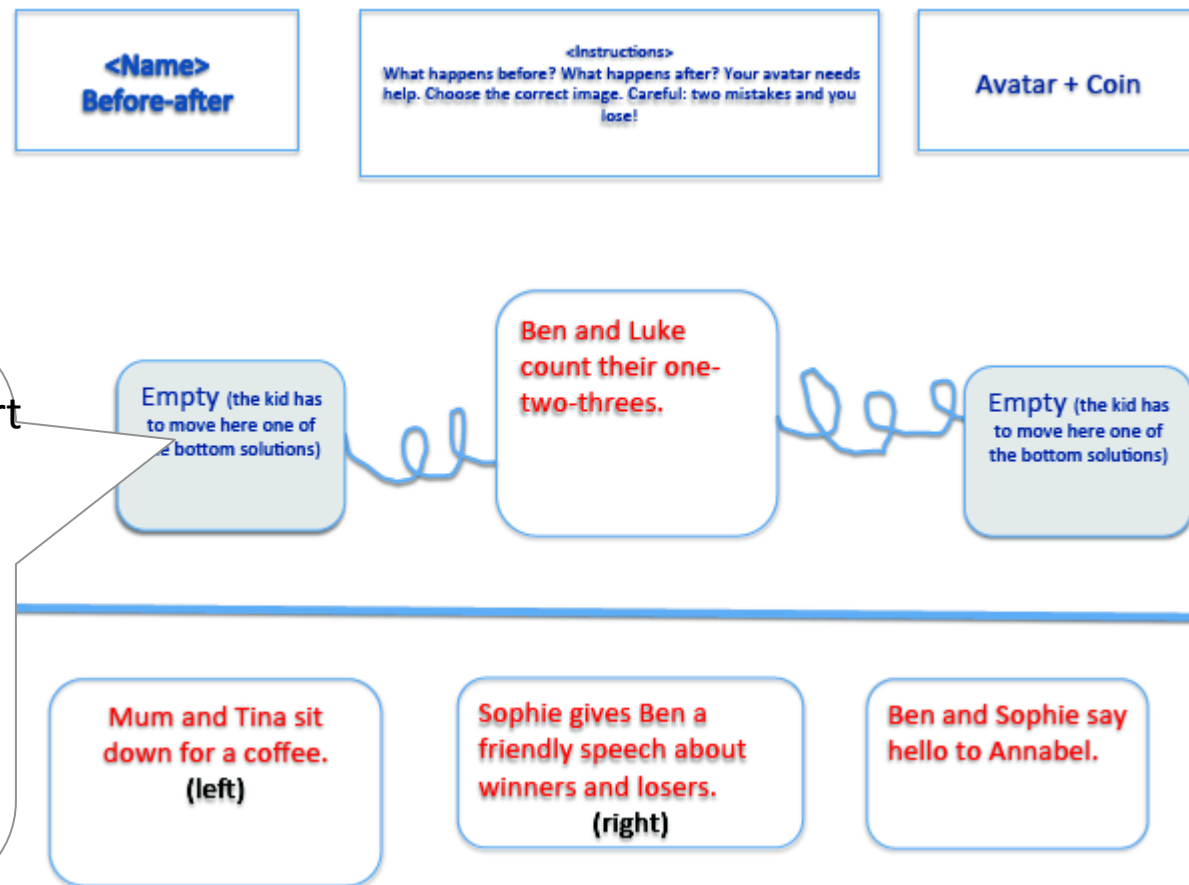
Issues concerning:

- the coherence between the text and the illustration
- the coherence between the illustration choices
- illustrations of books 1 and 2 seem to be richer in details and colors
- sometimes, the illustrations clearly represent or interpret what is in the text; some times it is not



## Experts for smart games

**G1:** assess whether the current textual instances of smart games were adequate for the stimulation plan for the TERENCE learners.



Issues:

- rarely, the events of the smart games are not that relevant in the story;
- some distractors may be too plausible, and hence not sufficiently stimulating
- smart games that stimulate pragmatic inferences could be required



# Software Usability



## Evaluators

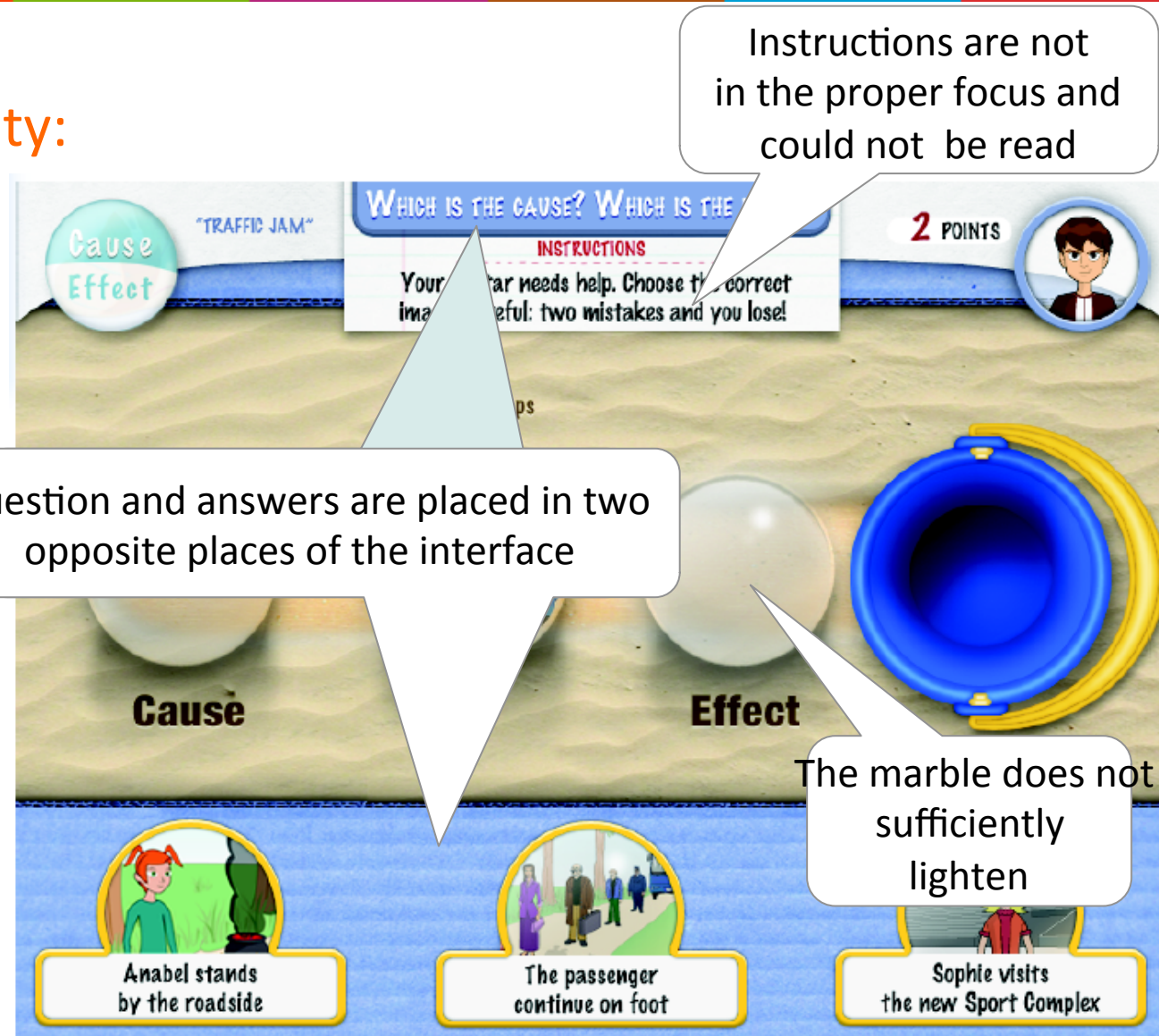
	<b>Evauator</b>	<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Used method</b>
Learner GUI	L Tarantino	Interaction design	Italy	Cognitive walkthrough
Educator GUI	T Di Mascio	Interaction design	Italy	Cognitive walkthrough



## Experts for usability:

The specific goals were to evaluate whether:

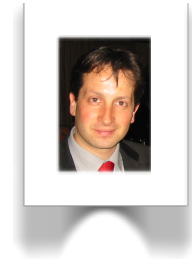
- G1.** the interfaces follow the general visual design guidelines,
- G2.** the interfaces support the user's next step to achieve a task,
- G3.** the interfaces provide the users with appropriate feedback



The screenshot shows a game interface with a sand-colored top half and a blue water-bottom half. A speech bubble at the top right points to the instructions area, stating: "Instructions are not in the proper focus and could not be read". A central speech bubble points to the question and answer area, stating: "Question and answers are placed in two opposite places of the interface". A bottom-right speech bubble points to a blue marble, stating: "The marble does not sufficiently lighten".

Interface elements include: a "Cause Effect" button, a "TRAFFIC JAM" title, a question "WHICH IS THE CAUSE? WHICH IS THE EFFECT?", instructions "Your car needs help. Choose the correct image. Helpful: two mistakes and you lose!", a "2 POINTS" score, a user avatar, and three event cards: "Anabel stands by the roadside", "The passenger continue on foot", and "Sophie visits the new Sport Complex".





**STEP I - Introduction:** the TERENCE ideas in a nutshell

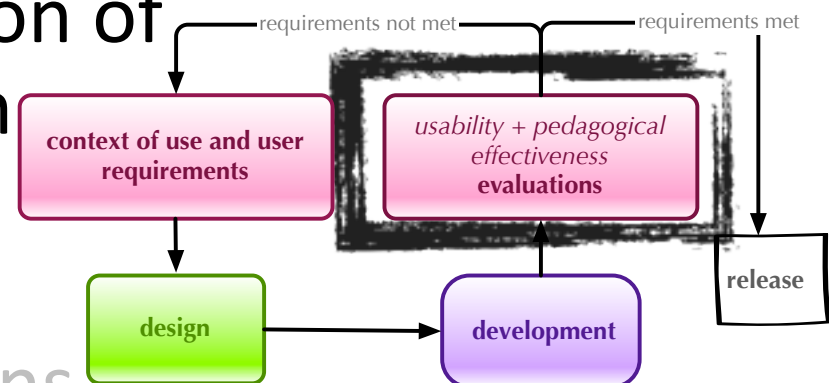
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**STEP V - The end:** conclusions



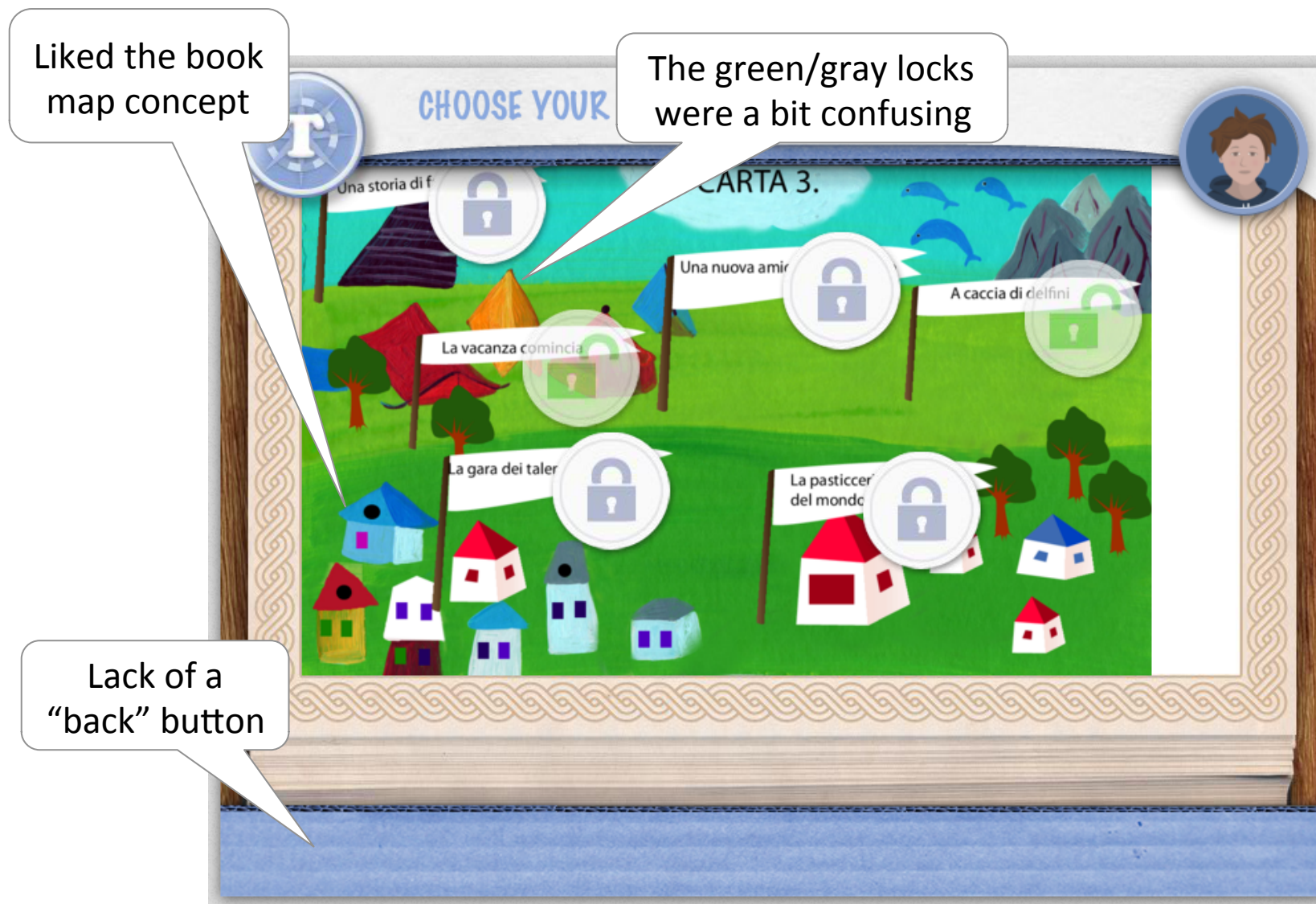


# Small Scale Evaluation

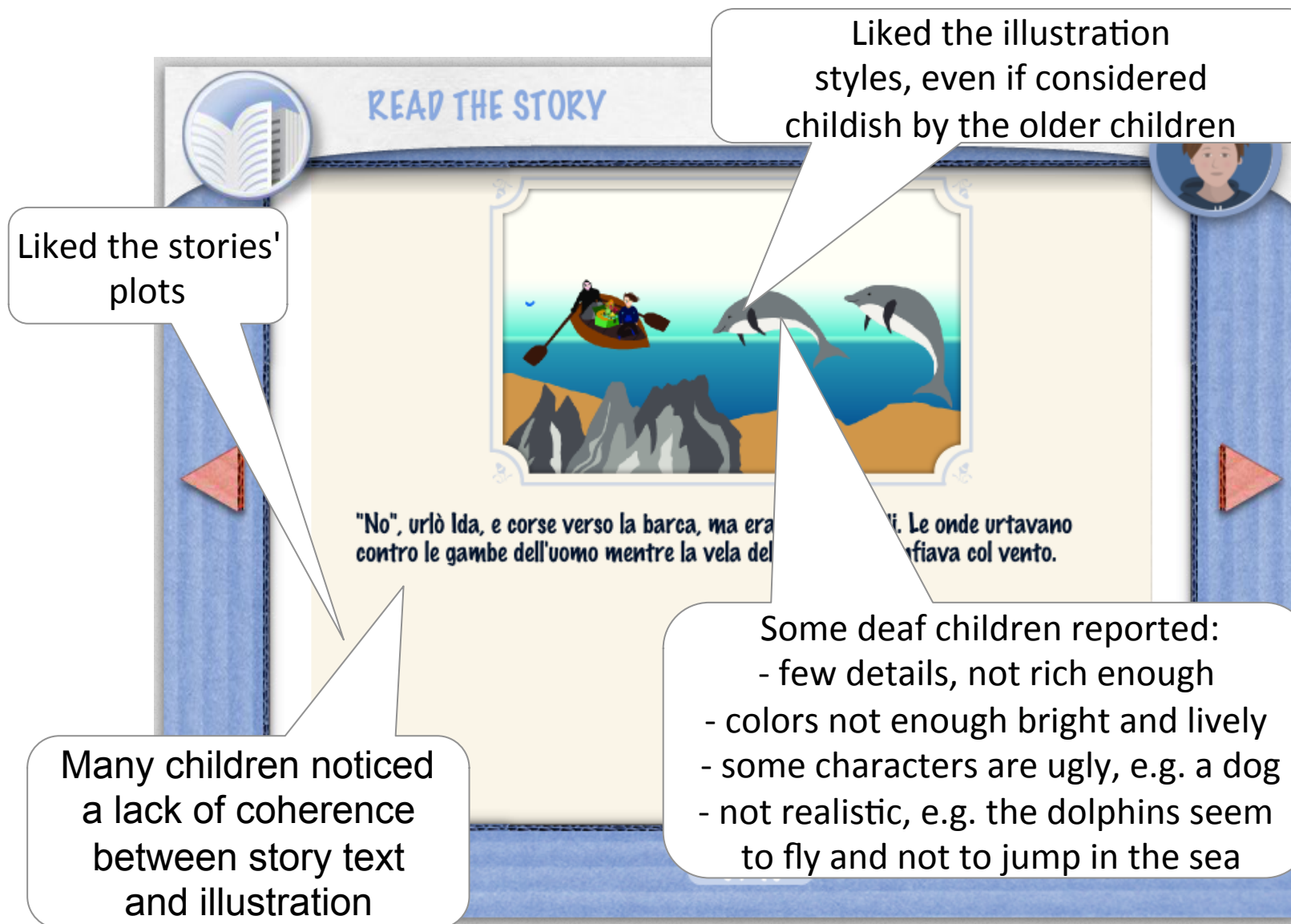


## Small scale in Italy

- Experiments at
  - LNGS, L'Aquila, 11 hearing children, July
  - Rome, 9 deaf children, 5 hearing children, July
  - Avezzano, 5 hearing children, July
  - Avezzano, 11 hearing children, September
  - Bolzano, 6 hearing children, September
  - Treviso, 15 hearing children, September
  - Padova, 4 deaf children, 106 hearing children, July – September
- Total: **159** hearing children, **13** deaf children



The screenshot shows a colorful book map interface. At the top, it says "CHOOSE YOUR" and "CARTA 3.". Below this, there are several interactive elements represented by lock icons: a blue lock with a white 'T' (top left), a blue lock (top center), a green lock (middle left), a blue lock (middle center), a green lock (middle right), a blue lock (bottom left), and a blue lock (bottom center). Text labels for these elements include "Una storia di f...", "Una nuova amir...", "A caccia di delfini", "La vacanza comincia", "La gara dei taler...", and "La pasticcer' del monde...". A circular profile picture of a man is in the top right corner. A large white speech bubble on the left contains the text "Liked the book map concept". A smaller white speech bubble in the upper middle contains "The green/gray locks were a bit confusing". A white speech bubble at the bottom left contains "Lack of a 'back' button".



The screenshot shows a digital story interface titled "READ THE STORY". It features a central illustration of a boat on the sea with two people, and two dolphins jumping out of the water. Below the illustration is a text box with Italian text. The interface includes navigation arrows and a circular icon of a person's face. Several callout boxes provide feedback on the interface and content.

Liked the stories' plots

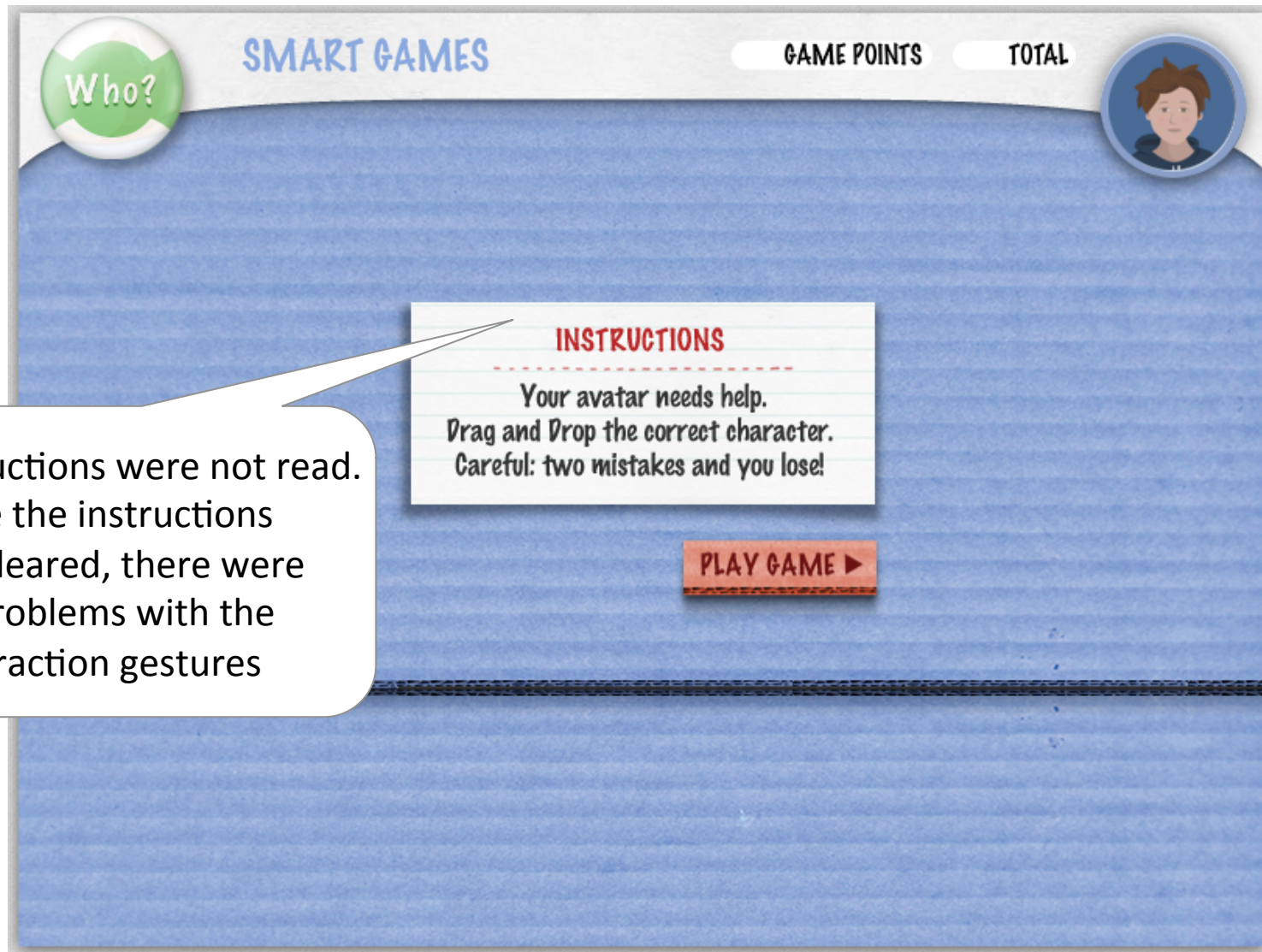
Liked the illustration styles, even if considered childish by the older children

Many children noticed a lack of coherence between story text and illustration

Some deaf children reported:

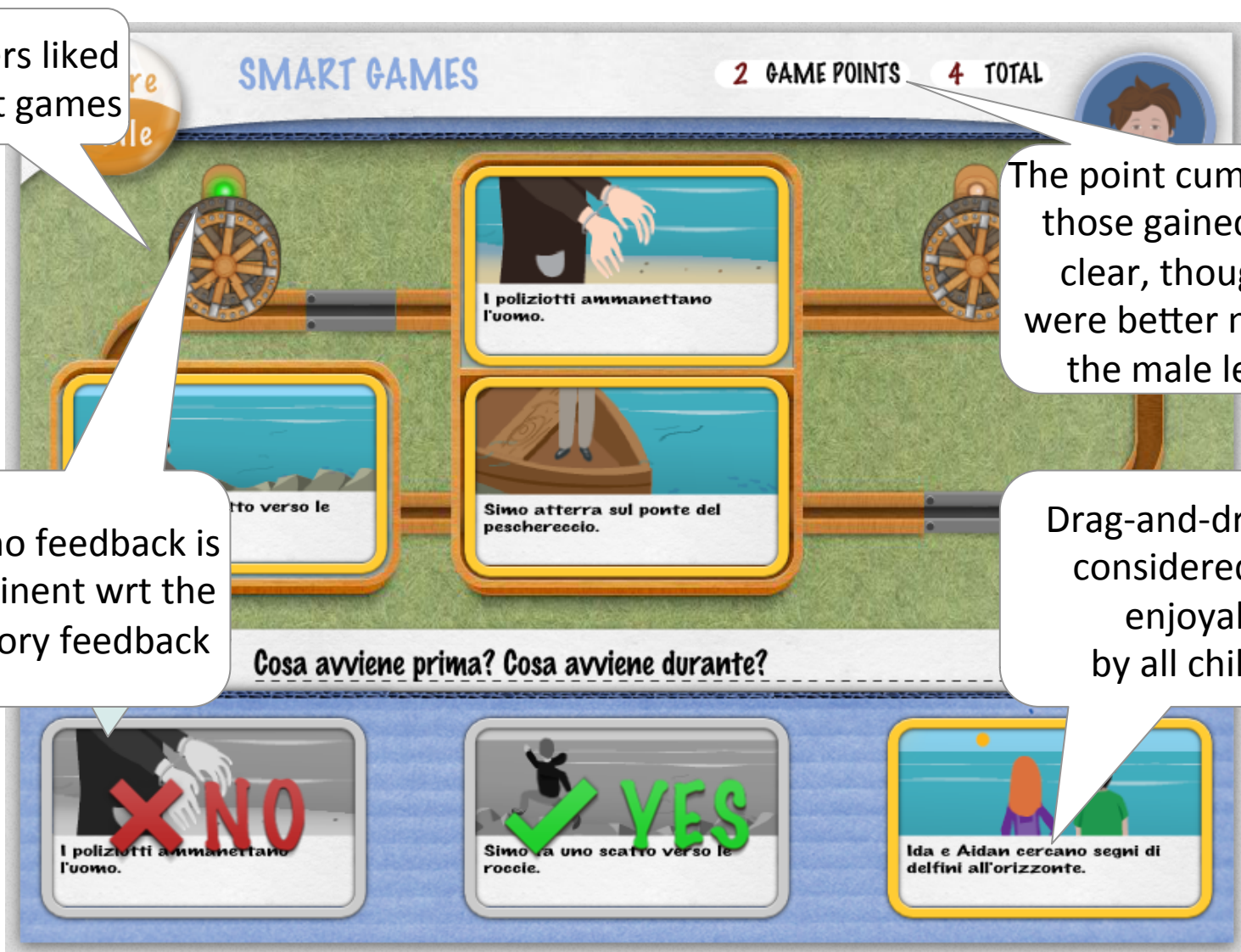
- few details, not rich enough
- colors not enough bright and lively
- some characters are ugly, e.g. a dog
- not realistic, e.g. the dolphins seem to fly and not to jump in the sea





The instructions were not read. Once the instructions were cleared, there were no problems with the interaction gestures

# Main Results



The screenshot shows a game interface titled "SMART GAMES" with a score of "2 GAME POINTS" and "4 TOTAL". The interface features a central track with three panels. The top panel shows a person being restrained by police, with the text "I poliziotti ammanettano l'uomo." The middle panel shows a person in a boat, with the text "Simo atterra sul ponte del peschereccio." The bottom panel shows two people looking at the horizon, with the text "Ida e Aidan cercano segni di delfini all'orizzonte." Below the track, there are three feedback panels: the first shows a red "X" and "NO" over the police scene, the second shows a green checkmark and "YES" over the boat scene, and the third shows the horizon scene. A question "Cosa avviene prima? Cosa avviene durante?" is displayed above the feedback panels. Three callout boxes provide feedback: "All learners liked the smart games" points to the top panel; "The point cumulated and those gained are not clear, though they were better noticed by the male learners" points to the score; "The yes/no feedback is too prominent wrt the explanatory feedback" points to the "NO" feedback; and "Drag-and-drop was considered very enjoyable by all children" points to the bottom panel.

All learners liked the smart games

2 GAME POINTS 4 TOTAL

The point cumulated and those gained are not clear, though they were better noticed by the male learners

The yes/no feedback is too prominent wrt the explanatory feedback

Drag-and-drop was considered very enjoyable by all children

SMART GAMES

I poliziotti ammanettano l'uomo.

Simo atterra sul ponte del peschereccio.

Ida e Aidan cercano segni di delfini all'orizzonte.

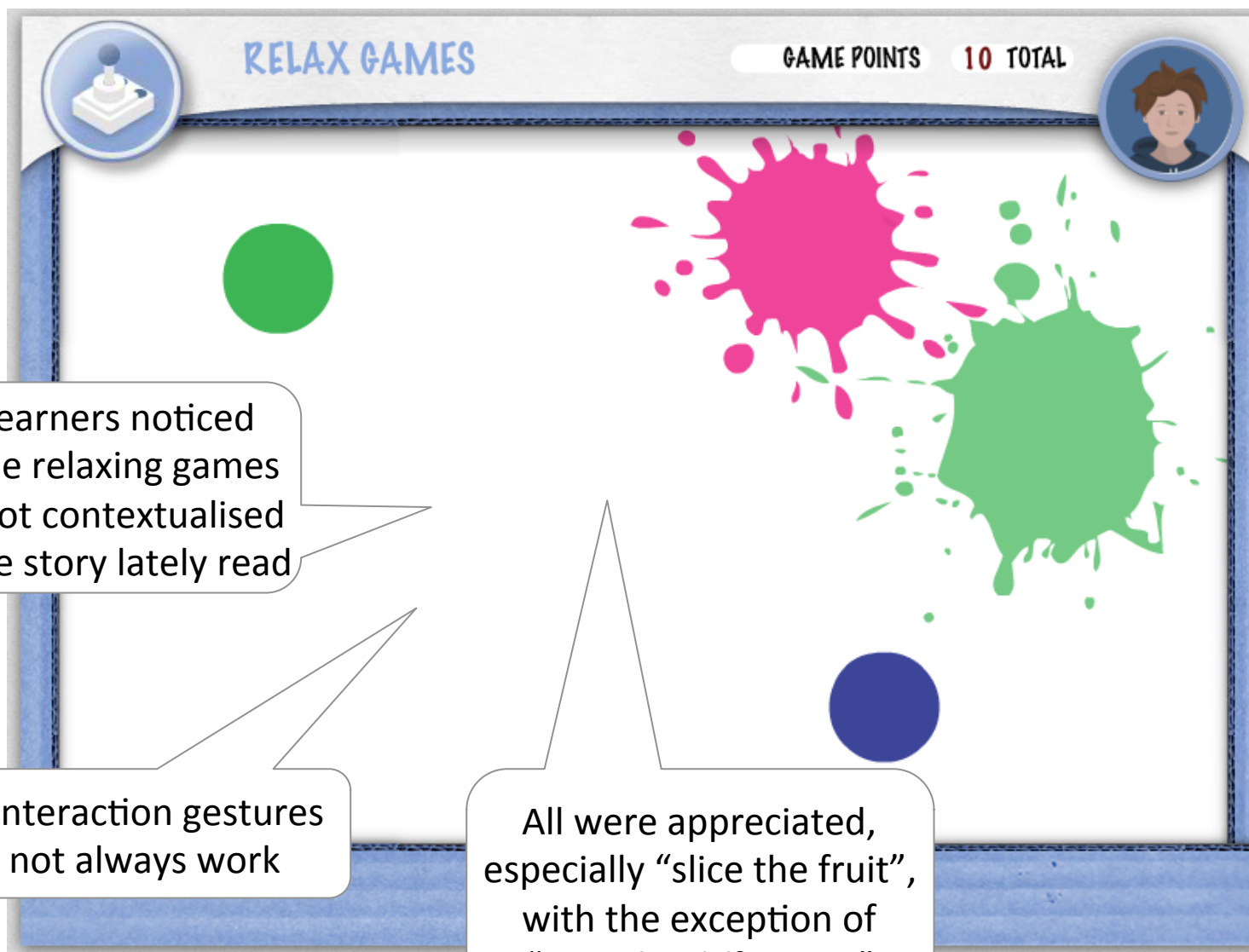
Cosa avviene prima? Cosa avviene durante?

X NO

I poliziotti ammanettano l'uomo.

✓ YES

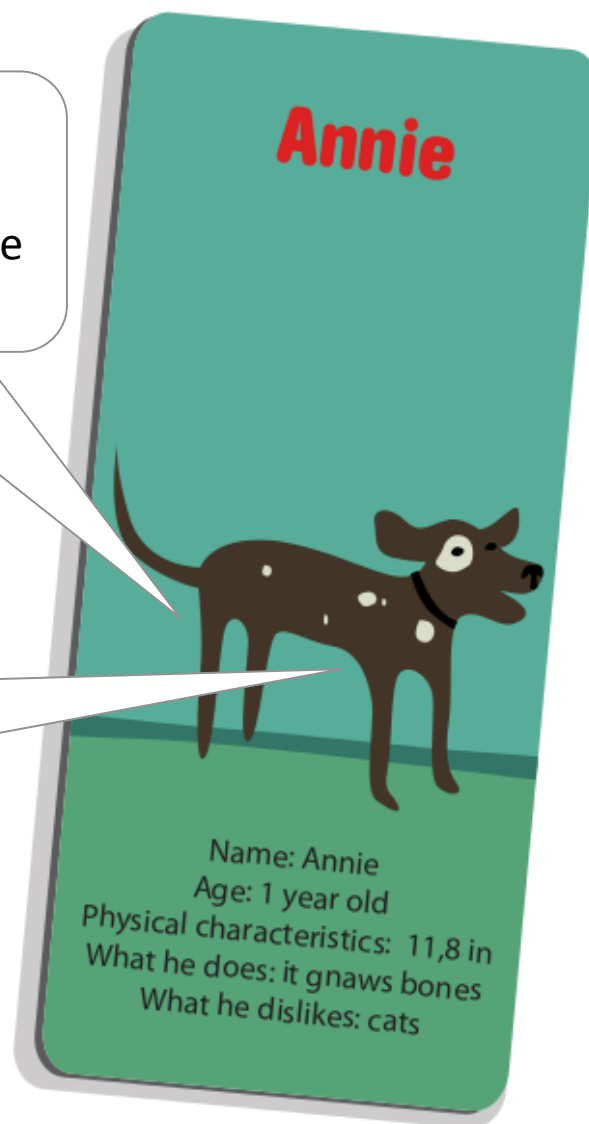
Simo va uno scatto verso le rocce.



# Main Results

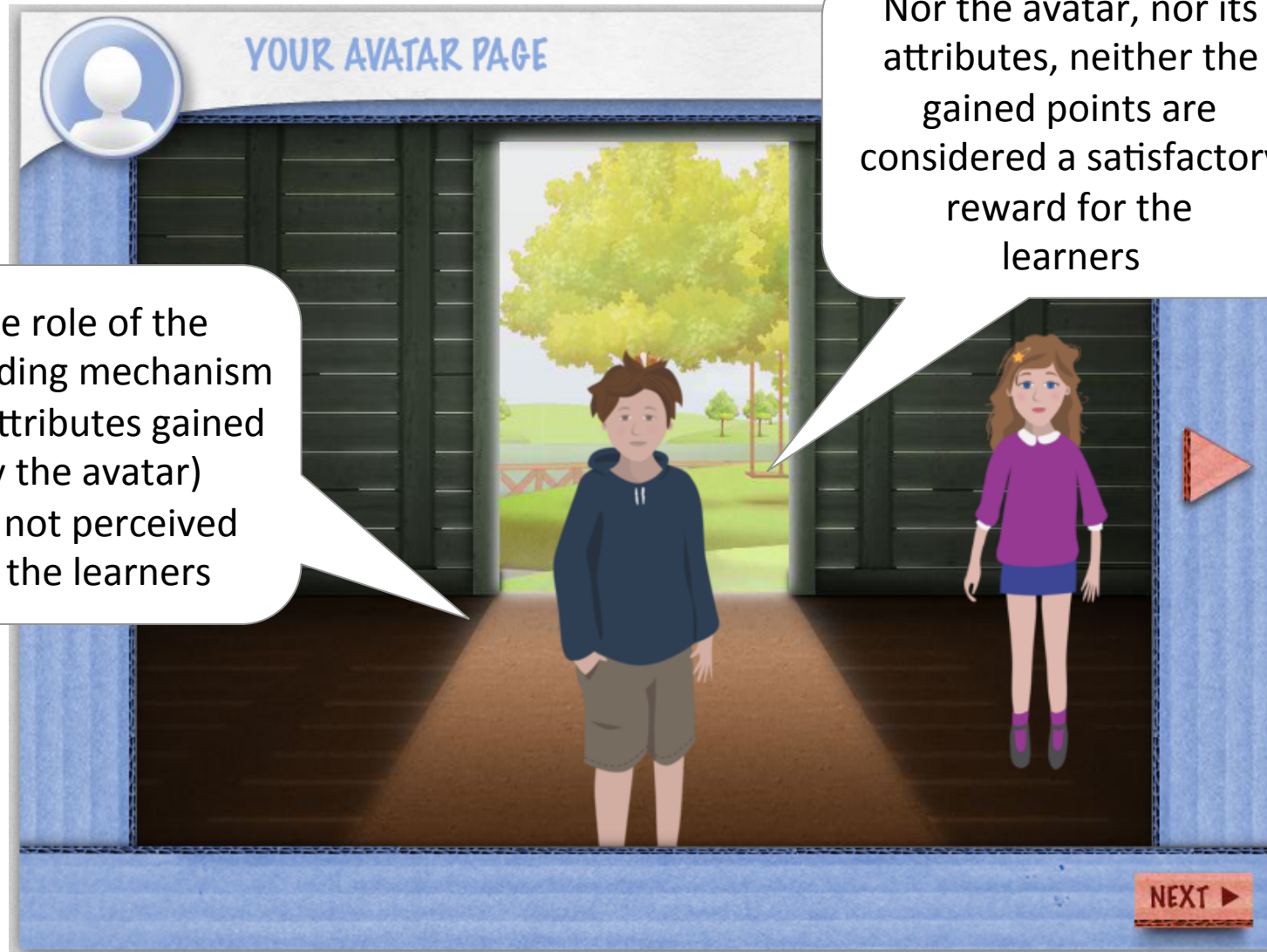
Too many cards,  
unordered,  
sometimes unreadable  
or not credible

Children would have  
preferred cards per  
story, rather than per  
book





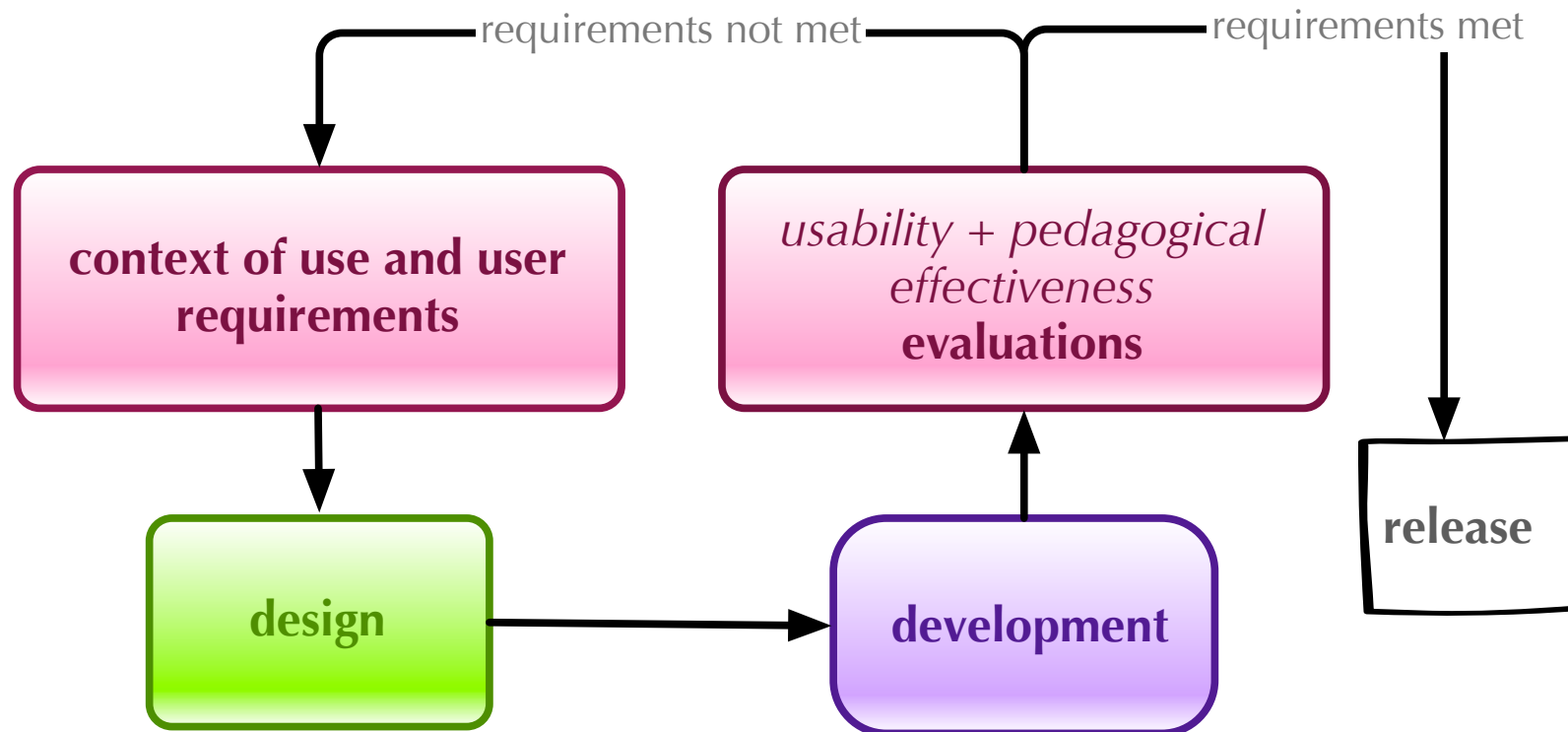
# Main Results



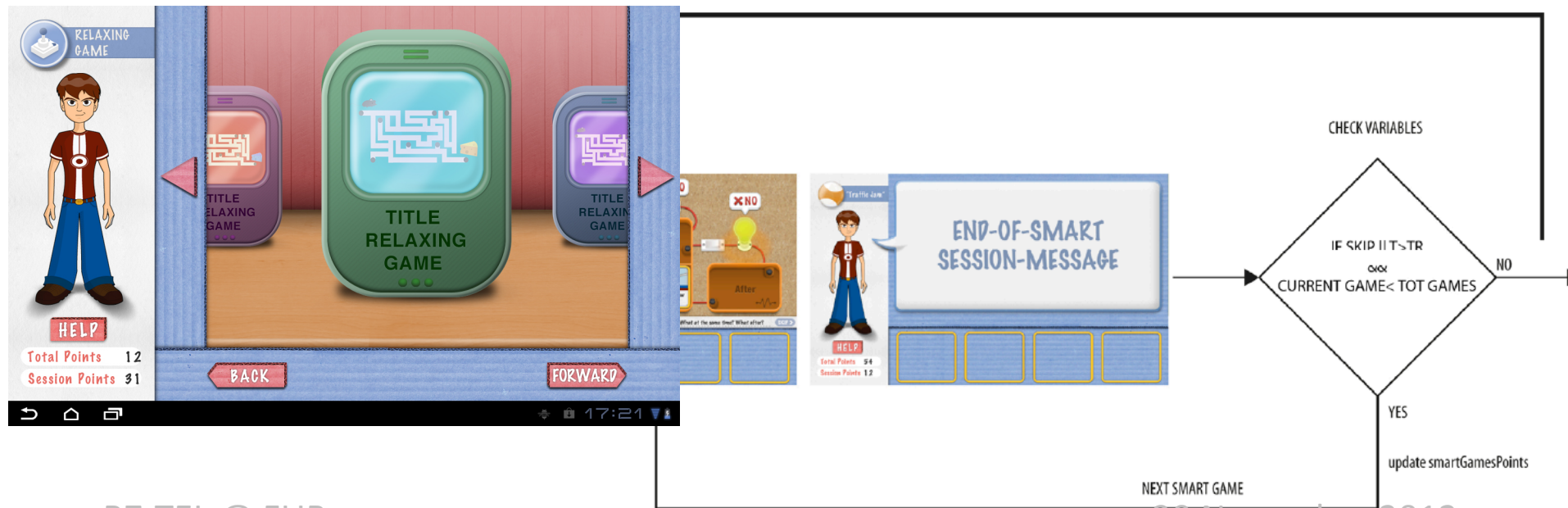
The role of the rewarding mechanism (i.e. attributes gained by the avatar) was not perceived by the learners

Nor the avatar, nor its attributes, neither the gained points are considered a satisfactory reward for the learners

- Evaluation results are used to refine the requirements and hence improve the design



- Evaluation results are used to improve the design and refine the requirements





# Large Scale Evaluation



## The stimulation plan in short

- Five months (Jan-May)
- Two sessions per week
- Each session is organised as follows
  - reading (ca 15 minutes)
  - smart games (ca 15 minutes)
  - relaxing games (ca 15 minutes)
- Pre-post tests (Nov-Dec, May-Jun), and possibly with a control group
  - UniPD in D1.1 suggests MT-tests
  - The psychological unit of UnivAQ suggests further tests, e.g., PPVT-R, “prova di comunicazione referenziale”, coloured progressive matrices, neuropsychological evaluation battery



# Brainstorming



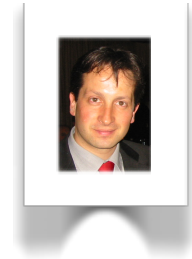
- Suggestions on how to improve
  - the expert-based evaluation
    - it ends in December
  - the large-scale evaluation, e.g.,
    - different tests,
    - different organisation of the stimulation?



# Step V: The End



# Thread - Outline



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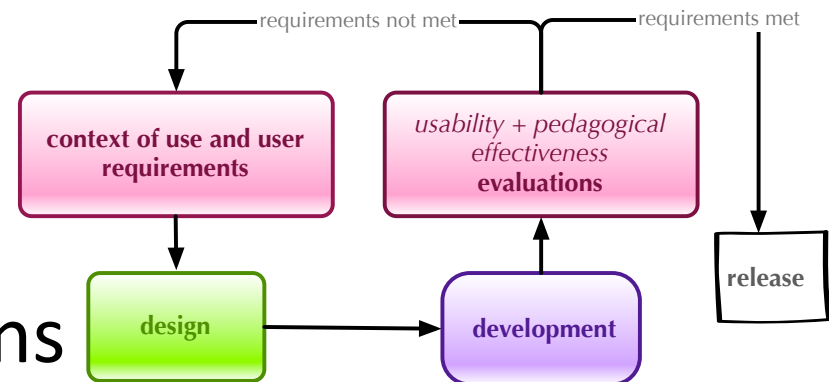
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# The TERENCE Consortium



Partner	Main contribution	Country
UnivAQ	SW design	Italy
LUB	SW design	Italy
LUH	SW design	Germany
KUL	NLP	Belgium
FBK	NLP	Italy
MOME	Graphics	Hungary
USAL	SW development	Spain
AMNIN	SW testing	Slovenia
UniPD	C&E Psychology	Italy
UoS	C&E Psychology	UK
UniVR	C&E Psychology	Italy
SIVECO	Dissemination	Romania

**2 Expert Consultants:** Marc Marschark (RIT); Paul van den Broek (Leiden U.)





LEARNER:

THANK

PASSWORD:

YOU

LOGIN

1. **Introduction:** the TERENCE idea in a nutshell
2. **What:** the TERENCE learning material
3. **Who:** the users of TERENCE
4. **How:** the evaluation of TERENCE
5. **The end:** conclusions

