Social robots in habilitation

Social robots can support children with autism to practice social skills

Imagine that you are responsible for the habilitation and social skills training of a child with an autism spectrum disorder. During the training you aim to prepare the child for real-world situations by relating different behaviours and face gestures with a meaning and context, but the tools available cannot sufficiently support you.

Using a touch screen to show facial gestures and practice interaction doesn't feel human-like enough, and it's challenging for you to hold e.g. a smile or a frown for a long time while also discussing the meaning and characteristics of the gestures together with the child.

It would be optimal to just observe the child's reactions and progress while he or she interacts with another person, but you can't afford bringing in another trained caregiver to support and inviting a new person can regardless be overwhelming for the child. You're simply wishing for someone, or something, to act as a physical human but with the repetitiveness and programmability of a computer.

An opportunity to help millions of children

Although it is estimated that one in 160 children in the world has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the tools available for both caregivers and children are still limited, often cumbersome to use and does not take advantage of the advancements in new technology.

What if there was a tool available to...

- **Easily simulate social situations with a "real-world" feeling**
- **Enable caregivers to quickly create tailor-made sessions**
- **Help children practice social skills in a human-like way**
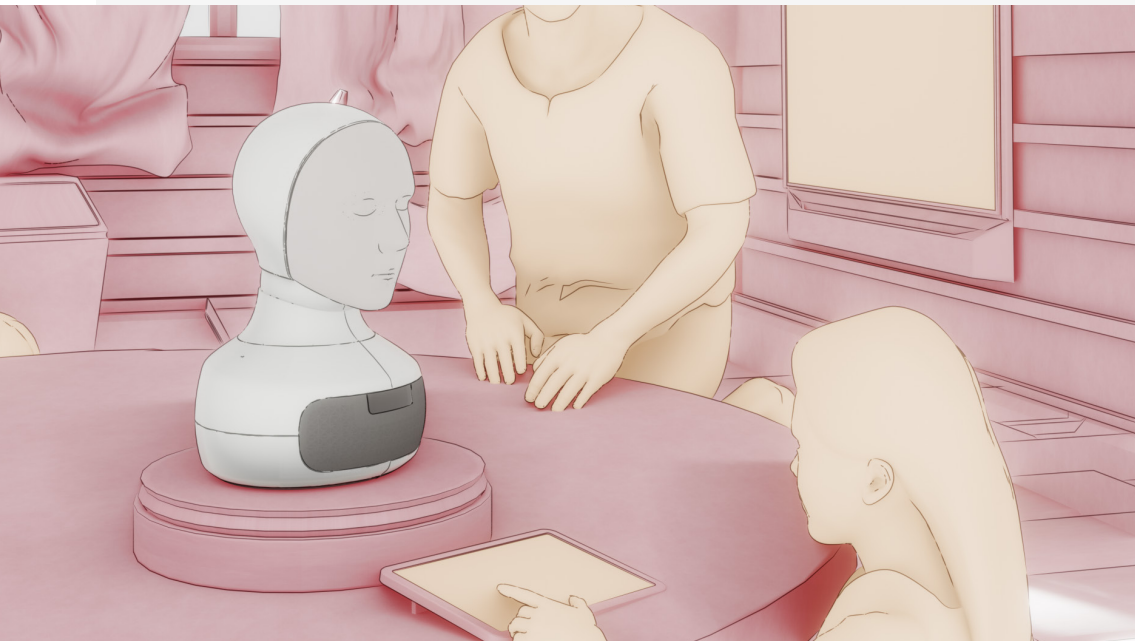- **Provide therapy in different languages**

How Furhat can help

⊙ **Simulate situations with a human, "real-world" feeling**

⊙ **Training at a personalized pace and environment**

⊙ **Reduced dependency on available therapists**

Furhat Robotics, the world-leading social robotics provider from Sweden, presents an innovative concept developed together with habilitation experts to support children with ASD in their social skills training.

The Furhat robot, with its human-like shape and face, has the ability to on demand show a wide range of different facial expressions and maintain these expressions for however long they are needed, allowing time for discussions and reflections around what a certain expression looks like and means.

With an easy-to-use web tool as a complement, content, pictures and dialogues can easily be added and amended to suit every child, and sessions can be saved as templates and logged if needed. The robot can either be used as a tool by therapists or as a stand-alone practice tool for older children, accompanied by instructional touch screens and feedback on exercises - all done in a safe and calm environment.

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"The advancement of socially-assistive robots in recent years has opened up a promising new way for autistic patients to get more affordable and personalized care"

MIT Technology Review

Key technical features

- ⊘ 20+ built-in facial gestures that can be stopped or slowed down

- ⊘ 35+ controllable muscles in the face to create any number of new facial expressions

- ⊘ Web tool to create content, pictures and dialogues for personalized use and/or store as templates

- ⊘ Ability to share content and templates between robots

- ⊘ Easy-to-use interface to control the robot during a session

- ⊘ Complementary touch screen with pictures and/or text

- ⊘ Stand-alone product for children or supporting tool for therapists

- ⊘ 40+ languages available

- ⊘ GDPR compliant

Do you want to work with us to improve the habilitation tools for caregivers and children with autism spectrum disorder? Reach out to us at

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or read more at

www.furhatrobotics.com/education