

SP777: Information Gathering

Assignment 3

The design process is generally considered to be a combination of the following stages:

- information gathering
- problem definition
- idea generation
- concept evaluation
- analysis
- detail design
- testing
- evaluation

The process is not a linear one, however, as it is often necessary to go back to revisit earlier stages in light of information which you learn later on. Experience has shown that the more time which is spent on the initial stages of the design, the easier the later stages become.

We will begin with the information gathering stage of the process. Now that we are focused on the learning center, find out as much as you can about the disabilities and age groups of the children there, and the challenges that they face. We will start by visiting the Learning Center, but any additional research you do to understand your audience will help you to make better products.

As you do your research, think about which aspects of the project most interest you. Starting today in class, we will generate a list of questions that you want to answer at the Learning Center. These questions may be about the specifications or performance of the device (such as those delivered last year); the context in which it will be used; the current state of the art; or anything else that you feel is relevant. As you gather information, you may begin to generate ideas for solving the problem, be sure to jot these down in your notebook as well.