



KidPad: A Collaborative Storytelling Tool for Children

KidPad is a collaborative story authoring tool for children. It provides basic drawing functionality on a zooming canvas that is provided by [Jazz](#). The narrative structure of a story is defined by creating spatial hyperlinks between objects on the canvas. Instead of using a standard WIMP (Windows, Icons, Menus, Pointer) user interface, KidPad uses *local tools* that can be picked up, used and dropped anywhere on the drawing surface. The local tools interface and [MID](#), a Java/Windows98 library developed at the University of Maryland, allows KidPad to support shoulder-to-shoulder collaboration. If multiple USB mice are connected to the computer each mouse will control a tool in KidPad, making it possible to let several children simultaneously create a story together!

KidPad Version 0.8 is now available for [free download](#) for non-commercial use!

We have written about various versions of KidPad in several places, and articles are available here:

- Benford, S., Bederson, B., Akesson., K., Bayon, V., Druin, D., Hansson, P., Hourcade, J., Ingram, R., Neale, H., O'Malley, C., Simsarian, K., Stanton, D., Sundblad, Y., and Taxen, G. (November 1999)
[Designing Storytelling Technologies to Encourage Collaboration Between Young Children](#)
CS-TR-4087, UMIACS-TR-99-76 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Postscript\]](#)
To appear in CHI 2000.
- Bederson, B., Stewart, J. and Druin, A. (November 1999)
[Single Display Groupware](#)
CS-TR-4086, UMIACS-TR-99-75 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Postscript\]](#)
- Druin, A., Stewart, J., Proft, D., Bederson, B.B., Hollan, J.D.
[KidPad: A Design Collaboration Between Children, Technologists, and Educators](#)
ACM CHI 97, pp 463-470, 1997.

KidPad is being developed by Juan Pablo Hourcade, Ben Bederson, Gustav Taxen and Allison Druin at the University of Maryland. Design ideas and feedback is provided by children and adults in Maryland, USA, Stockholm, Sweden, and Nottingham, Great Britain, as part of a European Union funded project called [KidStory](#). In addition, KidPad is being used as the base technology for a new NSF Digital Libraries [project for children](#).

For questions or comments about KidPad, please contact Professors [Druin](#) & [Bederson](#).

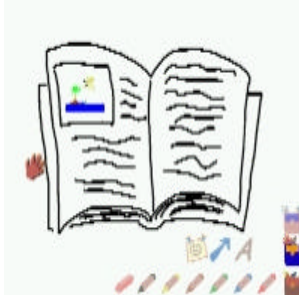


Screen Shots from KidPad

KidPad screen with story, local tools and hyperlink.



The end location of the hyperlink is zoomed to fill the screen.



The next screen in the story. The magic wand tool is being used to draw a hyperlink from the sun to the island. The toolboxes have been closed to hide tools that aren't being used.

