

The Project

The main objective of the project was to provide children with an engaging and interactive mobile application to help them understand the effects of trauma. The application should particularly help children, within the age bracket of 8-14 years old who have suffered from trauma due to abuse or neglect, recognise these effects via graphical representations on a storybook-type application.



The Application

The iOS application developed incorporates a series of features designed to effectively engage users. These include character selection, story narration and interactable animations. Users are able to select the gender of the main character before starting the story and can also interact with selected elements throughout the story. Tapping on these elements will trigger both interesting sound effects as well as animations.

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SpriteKit provides a graphics rendering and animation infrastructure that can be used to create animated textured images or sprites.



Adobe Photoshop is a raster graphics editor developed by Adobe Systems for Windows and OS X.



Xcode is an integrated development environment (IDE) containing a suite of software development tools for developing OS X and iOS applications.



Affinity Photo is an OS X professional image editing tool for conceptual artists.

The Story

The project involved the actualisation of a story, which was written by the client, into an interactable iOS mobile application. The story itself incorporates several themes within it that the client hopes will resonate with the child's thought and emotions. These themes include the flight response, the fight response, the freeze response, and the psychological and physiological effects associated with trauma.

The Client

Sonya Pringle-Jones is the Team Leader of the Therapeutic Care Program within the Australian Childhood Foundation. Recognising that there were gaps within the therapeutic tools available, Sonya sought to realise a story she had written into an actual mobile application. She hopes to enhance existing therapy processes by providing children with a 'voice' via the application developed by the team.



Freeing Fear