

Philips Sonicare for Kids

Establishing a lifetime of healthy oral healthcare habits

Client: The Philips Sonicare team, makers of the #1 recommended brand by dental professionals

Industry: Healthcare

Project Type: End-to-end healthcare mobile app development with Motivational UX™



Overview

1 Challenge:

By harnessing the latest in Bluetooth connectivity, there was an opportunity to create a new product with a holistic brushing experience for kids using a Philips Sonicare brush that was so compelling that they would proactively brush their teeth. At the same time, users would learn proper brushing techniques that would benefit their oral health for decades to come.

Additionally, as Philips Sonicare for Kids is an FDA regulated medical device, there needed to be supporting evidence that the companion application would add meaningful value regarding engagement levels.

2 Approach:

We started by identifying what would truly motivate our audience, which we unearthed through several rounds of contextual interviews in participants' homes. Using early prototypes and concept tests, real-time data analytics, and even visits to numerous dental offices, we thus ensured that professional feedback and product engagement data was incorporated into the product's value proposition during product development. This led to a very powerful insight: while most kids turn brushing into a battle, they don't actually dislike brushing. This sparked many product improvement ideas, and helped us with the healthcare mobile app development phase.

3 Solution:

We needed kids to feel empowered to brush on their own, while still providing significant education around how and why to brush. This led to the creation of Sparkly during app development, a character designed to trigger care and nurturing impulses in kids, improving their motivation to brush while sparking a strong emotional connection with the character.

Because of Sparkly's tiny arms, kids must help him by following along with the guidance on the mobile app screen twice a day.

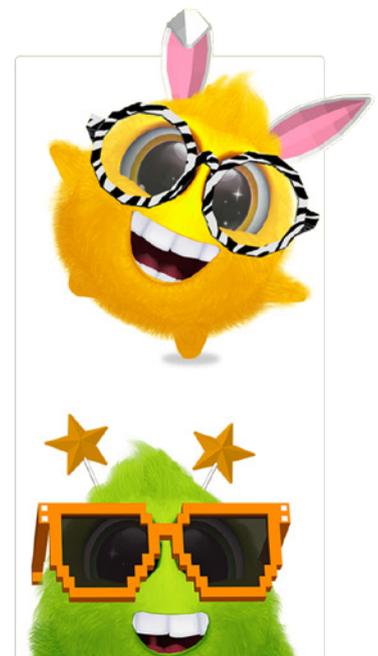
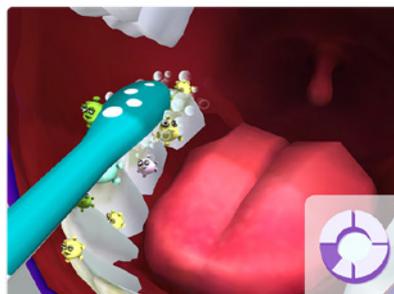
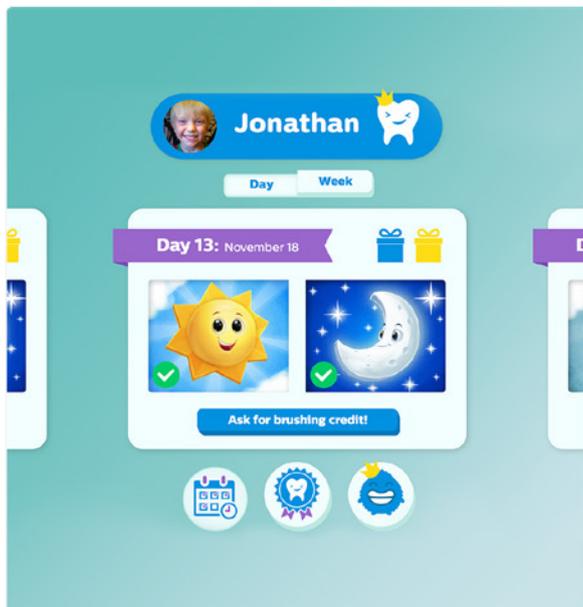
The healthcare app showcases the desired movement of the toothbrush, providing real-time coaching for proper technique as instructed by dental professionals, further enhancing the overall customer experience.

4 Result:

Over time, kids feel empowered to use the connected Philips Sonicare kids brush without the assistance of mom or dad, increasing product engagement, while parents are able to monitor their kids' brushing through a parent-friendly dashboard that follows strict COPPA guidelines.

Brushing becomes fun as well as habit and routine and as a result, Philips Sonicare for Kids is instilling healthy oral healthcare benefits that will last a lifetime.

Solution Dashboard



Challenge

The desire to support proactive brushing

The Philips Sonicare team, makers of the #1 recommended brand by dental professionals, wanted to build upon the success of their rechargeable power toothbrush for kids. By harnessing the latest in Bluetooth connectivity, there was an opportunity to create a holistic brushing experience for kids using a Philips Sonicare brush that was so compelling that they would proactively ask to brush their teeth, while learning proper brushing techniques that would benefit their oral health for decades to come.

Additionally, as Philips Sonicare for Kids is an FDA regulated medical device, the product couldn't just claim to work. As all Philips Sonicare toothbrushes have strong clinical claims, there needed to be supporting evidence that the companion application would add meaningful value regarding engagement levels. A robust research plan, including per-user analytics, was required to provide the proof and traceability for Philips' marketing claims.

Approach

Disposing of the stall tactic

We started by identifying what would truly motivate our audience, which we unearthed through several rounds of contextual interviews in participants' homes. Using early prototypes and concept tests, real-time data analytics, and even visits to numerous dental offices, we thus ensured that professional feedback and product engagement data was incorporated into the product's value proposition during product development.

This led to a very powerful insight: while most kids turn brushing into a battle, they don't actually dislike brushing. In fact, the feeling of a clean mouth is extremely motivating to them. They simply don't like to stop what they are doing, or don't want to do what follows brushing their teeth (going to bed, for example), so it became a stall tactic. This sparked many product improvement ideas, and helped us with the healthcare mobile app development phase.

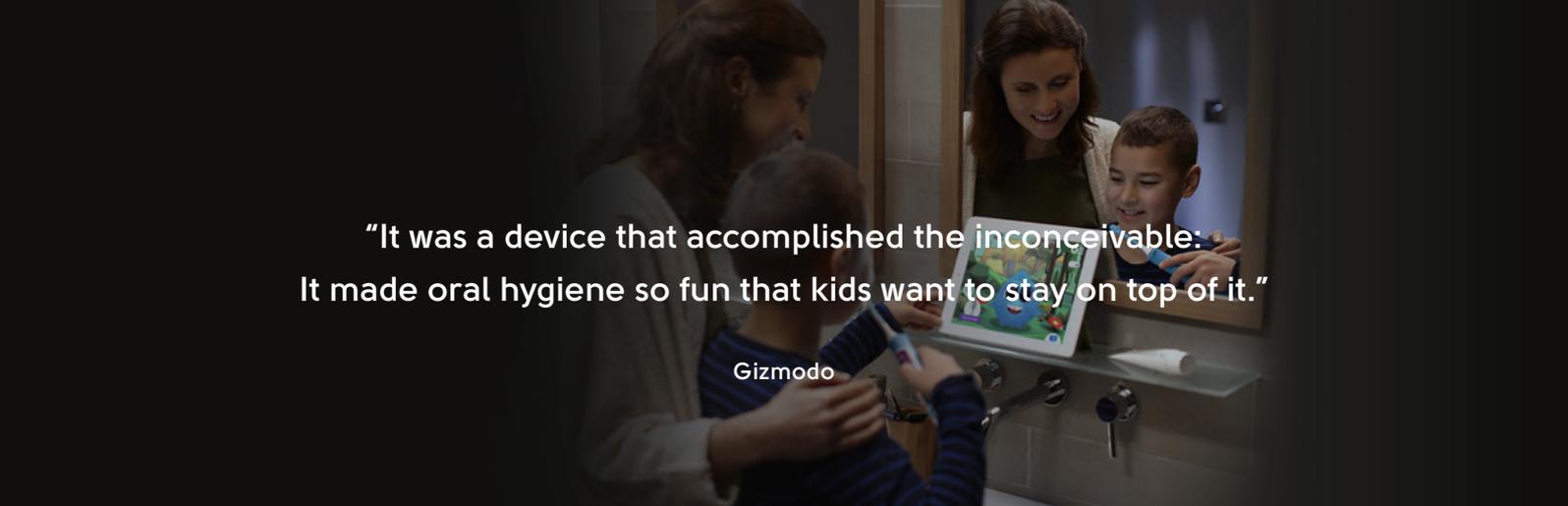
Solution

Creating a connected brushing experience

It was clear the connected experience needed to be more than just a glorified toothbrush timer or a game. We needed kids to feel empowered to brush on their own, while still providing significant education around how and why to brush. This led to the creation of a character (Sparkly) during app development, a cute furball in desperate need of brushing help. Sparkly was designed to trigger care and nurturing impulses in kids, improving their motivation to brush while sparking a strong emotional connection with the character. Because of Sparkly's tiny arms, the only way to help him is to have kids follow along with the guidance on the mobile app screen twice a day.

The healthcare app showcases the desired movement of the toothbrush, providing real-time coaching for proper technique as instructed by dental professionals, further enhancing the customer experience. When they finish, kids receive a present from Sparkly. This variable reward completes the engagement loop (a critical component of Motivational UX™) when they finish a full two minutes of brushing and triggers the desire to return again.

We measured and analyzed user engagement, which helped us create the design for features like the Parent Dashboard that follows strict COPPA guidelines. The Parent Dashboard tracks user behavior (including when and average duration of brushing), achievements for both kids and Sparkly, daily and weekly calendars to track and manage progress, and the awards kids get for brushing. It allowed us to incorporate motivational factors that kids resonated best with, based on hard data, not general self-reporting which can be unreliable. This increases the value of the new product to parents and kids alike.



“It was a device that accomplished the inconceivable:
It made oral hygiene so fun that kids want to stay on top of it.”

Gizmodo

Result

The power of Motivational UX™

Over time, kids feel empowered to use the connected Philips Sonicare kids brush without the assistance of mom or dad, increasing product engagement, while parents are able to monitor their kids' brushing through a parent-friendly dashboard that follows strict COPPA guidelines. Brushing becomes fun as well as habit and routine and as a result, Philips Sonicare for Kids is instilling healthy oral healthcare benefits that will last a lifetime.

Could your product use a clean sweep?

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