

Reflection: Elzelinde van Doleweerd

Before I started working on this project, I already made some personal project goals. I wrote them down in my Personal Development Plan. One of my learning goals for this project was to gain more knowledge and insights in making use of electronics. Another goal was to implement my gained knowledge of the elective 'Basic Formgiving Skills' in this project. Furthermore I wanted to make use of the machines in Vertigo, I have always been a bit afraid of using them. The last goal was to have efficient meetings and to have a positive sphere in the group. I will refer to this goals in the rest of the reflection.

Starting the project, we spent a lot of time to come up with the right idea. When looking back on this phase, in my opinion this was a bit time wasted. I learned from this for the next time, that you sometimes just have to choose a direction and to stand by your view. It is good to take a step back sometimes, but you also have to go further to develop your idea.

When we finally chose one idea, and developed this together, everyone was enthusiast about it. Besides that, we get along with each other very well, so my goal of the positive sphere was not a problem. The meetings were not always very efficient. To change this we tried different things. We made a better planning, so we knew which things had to be done when, and we planned dates for working together on the project. This made the meetings already more efficient.

Jorrit worked on the GPS system, I work with Vita on the concept, the design and the user tests. When doing the user tests, we got a lot of development ideas when observing and interviewing the children. I learned that when you really be with the user, you will expand you perception and you will get different insights. For the design, I worked together with Vita in Vertigo, she learned me how the machine worked, which was one of my goals. This was actually quite easy. I knew now that I can safe lots of time when using the machines.

We changed tasks to make the development still more efficient, and to reach our personal goals. Vita and I finally succeeded in developing the GPS system. After this, we started with programming and connecting the electronics. Gradually, Vita worked more on the programming part and I worked more on connecting the electronics. I developed my knowledge in electronics, I learned how you can make use of the internet for this, how you can test electronics, I learned to solder and to use the GPS system.

To make use of my gained knowledge from the 'Basic Fromgiving skills' elective, I did the finishing part of the prototype, I spray painted it. This went well, I was satisfied about the smooth, glossy result and I got a lot of nice feedback from other people.

Unfortunately we could not use the GPS system during the presentation, because it did not work insight the building. We decided to show the device with the light feedback, so we were able to declare the working system. Sometimes I find it difficult to present, I was a bit nervous beforehand. But I had prepared it well, our presentation looked nice and actually I like to show our idea to students and teachers. I enjoyed presenting it and I was satisfied about our result.

To conclude, I reached my goals. Some more extensive or easier than others. For efficient groups work, I learned that it is useful to make deadlines for the group beforehand. This way you will work more efficient. Furthermore it can be efficient to change tasks during your process. I already know much more about electronics and how to use them on the right way. From the user-tests I learned the need to really be with the user when developing your idea . Furthermore I dare to use the machines in Vertigo now and I know now that when I am enthusiast about my own project, it is easier to present it to others.