

MOOP - Using mLearning Environment in Primary Schools

Moop is an interactive mLearning environment for situations where primary school pupils take use of a mobile phone to analyze their surroundings and to communicate within groups. Through Moop, a pupil makes observations and saves and manages information in the mobile and network learning platform. The learning environment supports the process of inquiry learning, during which a pupil outlines his or her thoughts on the current topic, collects information and observations from the surroundings and reports the findings in the network-learning environment. Moop project is based on needs of schools and teachers: the traditional learning environment is broadened from classroom to observation in the surroundings. The goal is to increase interactivity and collaboration in learning with the help of a mobile phone. In the Moop environment the mobile learning is realized through tasks based on geographical location and requiring creative problem solving. Camera phone is familiar for pupils and a meaningful tool for communicating and working. The benefit of a mobile data terminal is that it goes where the learners go. Experiences with this tool have showed that inquiry learning processes can happen as part of daily school work and the tool was easy to use with students aged 10-12 years.

Moop application interface has been designed for Symbian (S60) platform technology. The application collects the media from the phones and shares it through real-time data-connection to server and www-environment. The connection used in the process is data-connection (GPRS/3G). Locating is based on GPS-technology which enables connecting observation and orientation tasks. Pupils (and teacher) communicate using push and talk (PoC) application.

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Pasi Mattila (M.Ed) is a Project Manager in the City of Oulu. He is leading the mLearning Project in the Educational Office. The aim is to design and create a mLearning platform for mobile devices in the use of Primary School Education. His special research and teaching interests are ICT-technology and mobile solutions in learning process.



Timo Fordell (M. Ed) is a Primary School Teacher in the City of Oulu, Patamäki Primary School. He has been developing and testing pedagogical model of his own for several years in School practise. He is interested in Creative Problem Solving, Inquiry Learning and usage of those in everyday schooling.

