Today's Stories

The **Today's Stories** project is exploring a wearable technology-facilitated approach for young children, aimed at developing their social, communicative and emotional skills in the context of everyday activities. The underlying ideas are that children can learn from reflecting on their own or other children's activities, as well as from other children's perspectives on their own actions.

To test how those ideas might be used in school contexts, we have implemented wearable technology for documenting different perspectives on episodes experienced by groups of children, and tangible interfaces for reviewing and manipulating the recorded episodes. A new, autonomy-oriented pedagogical framework complements these technologies. **Today's Stories** employs a process of co-design that involves all stakeholders in the development and deployment of the envisaged school environment.

Today's Stories is generating three types of results:
- A future-oriented educational framework.
- Technological results for individual and collective use.
- Procedures for individual and collective story authoring achieved in collaboration with educators in order to stimulate processes of reflection and understanding.

Kidscam is a 'wearable' device which audio-visually captures events in the child's daily life, and relays them to a collective memory of interrelated episodes. **MagicMirror** is a multi-media editing environment which allows children to build their own collective memory or portfolio from the events captured with KidsCam. Together, **Kidscam** and **MagicMirror** involve young children in a process of "reflective experimentation in living". The variety of reflective experiences, together with didactic questions related to self-knowledge and self-discovery, contribute to a meaningful process of personal exploration.

Today's Stories is keenly attentive to **social**, **cultural** and **ethical** implications of technology, and to conditions for technology deployment acceptance and success. We hope to discover novel forms of education that contribute to:
- social, literacy and communication skills
- computer literacy
- cross-cultural understanding
- productive home-school relationships.