

Spark

A helpful system for **parents** with **children**
learning **remotely** at home.

Overview

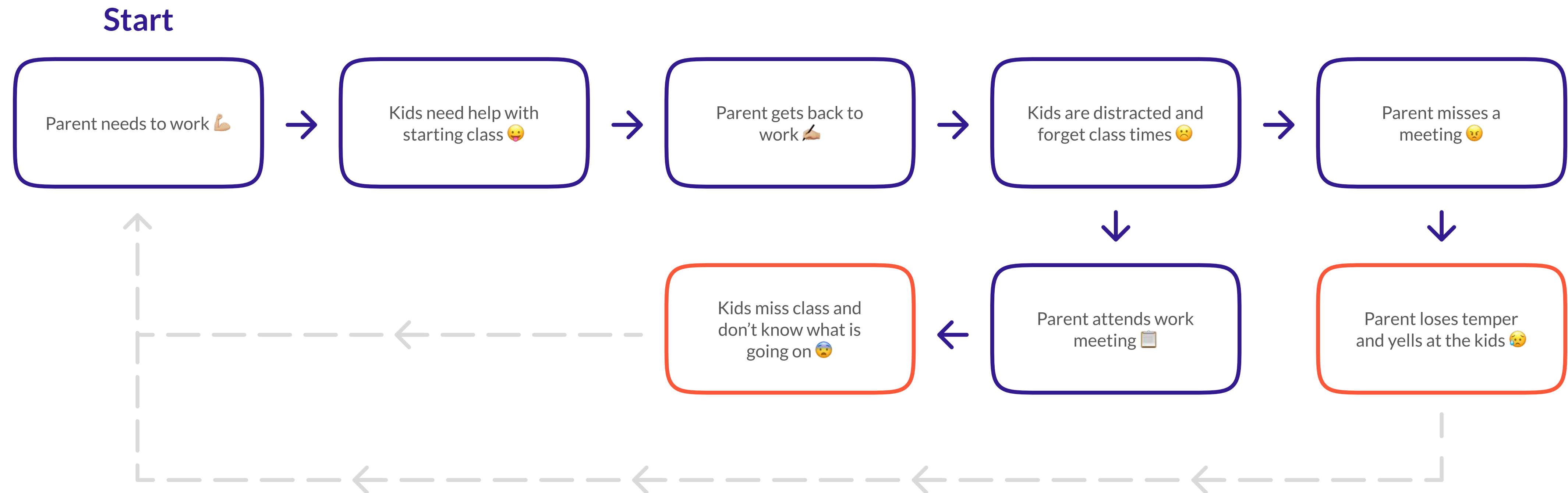
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Research	5-10	Visual Style	32-34
User Storytelling	11-17	Solution Screens	35-39
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Goal

To **assist** parents working from home manage their kids effectively and also **empower** children to learn more easily and efficiently.

What's the issue?

Due to **Covid-19**, millions of children are sent home to learn remotely. Parents not only have their own jobs to work on, they also have to monitor and help their children with school work. But without a clear **structure**, the parents can often find themselves **caught in a circle**.



5-10

Research

Understand the situations of my users.

Who are we helping?

To help families in this difficult situation, the system needs to benefit **both parents and children** to solve the problem completely.

Parents

- Working from home
- Balancing multiple tasks
- Unprepared for this sudden change

Children

- Ages 4-12
- Learning remotely
- Change in learning environment

Interviews

I interviewed parents with **4-12 year-old kids** to see how they are dealing with the situation and what struggles they are experiencing.

Shawn

3 kids

Age:

8, 10, 12

Joy

2 kids

Age:

7, 9

Melissa

2 kids

Age:

7, 10

Valerie

1 kid

Age:

6

Elise

3 kids

Age:

6, 8, 11

Brad

2 kids

Age:

4, 7

Interviews

Shawn

3 kids

“Are we doing the right thing?”

STRUGGLES

- Balancing work, home duties, and children’s education at home
- Feeling uncertain as a parent with this new responsibility

Joy

2 kids

“We want them to learn to be more self-guided.”

STRUGGLES

- Needing to watch children to make sure they’re focusing
- Kids have trouble without a schedule

Kaitlin

2 kids

“We’re almost learning the content along with our kids.”

STRUGGLES

- Needing a way to manage their time and schedule in the family
- Re-learning the school content before they can help the kids

Interviews

Valerie

1 kids

“Her eyes were swollen from the screen time.”

STRUGGLES

- Lack of frequent breaks
- Parent unable to focus on her own work because of worrying about her kid

Elise

3 kids

“They don’t want to listen because it’s coming from the parent.”

STRUGGLES

- Finding herself disciplining the kids all the time
- Kids like to extend break times

Brad

2 kids

“We have to keep reminding them their classes.”

STRUGGLES

- Taking care of two kids who have very different schedules
- The younger kid distracts the older sibling

Main Takeaways

Routine

Kids are having trouble focusing on school work because of the sudden change of learning environment. They no longer have a **structured schedule** to guide them.

Management

Without an instructor watching them all day, kids tend to have trouble manage their own time. This leads them to **rely** on their parents for school work. How can we **empower** them to learn better at home?

Confidence

Parents were suddenly given this responsibility that really is a **second full-time job**. A lot of them feel unsure with how they are dealing with this situation. Most of them were **never trained** to teach kids at home.

11-17

User Storytelling

Tell the stories of my users through research.

User Archetypes

The Schedule Follower

TYPE: Parent or child

STRUGGLES:

- Lost without a routine
- Can't stay focused for too long
- Trouble managing my time

The Easily Distracted

TYPE: Child

STRUGGLES:

- Losing focus after getting burnt out
- Can't keep track of everything
- Relying on adults

The Hands-on Parent

TYPE: Parent

STRUGGLES:

- No time for work
- Getting stressed and losing temper
- Feeling unqualified

USER STORIES

The Schedule Follower

1

As a single parent with a full time job, I want to only worry about my kids when they **need help** from me, so I can focus on work.

2

As a child who just started remote learning, I'm not sure what class I have today without a **routine** and my peers.

3

As a parent with important work calls, I want my kids to be able to see **my schedule**, so they don't constantly interrupted my work.

USER STORIES

The Easily Distracted

1

As a 7-year-old child learning remotely, I don't have my teacher and my peers **reminding** me of my classes and homework.

2

As a 10 year-old child at home, I don't feel like doing school work when I don't have a **schedule** like I do in school.

3

As a 8 year-old student, I have to **rely on adults** to make sure I go to class and do my homework at a regular basis.

USER STORIES

The Hands-on Parent

1

As a parent with high expectations, I want my kids to **stick to a schedule**, so they learn more efficiently.

2

As a parent having trouble to get my kids to focus, I want to know when to give them **breaks**, so they don't get burned out.

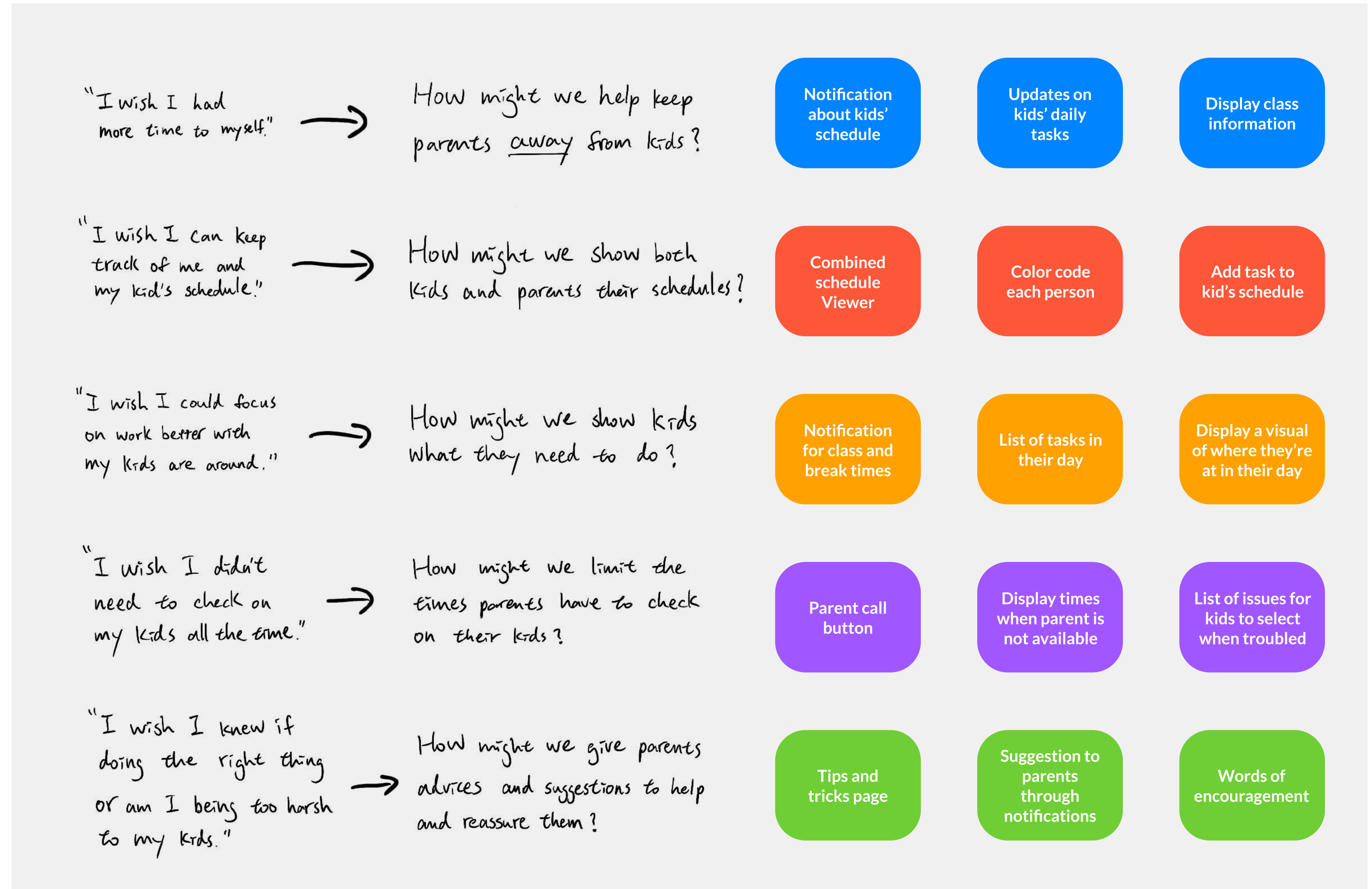
3

As a parent who likes to do everything myself, I also want my kids to learn to **self manage**, so they don't have to rely on me.

How Might We's

I wrote down some How Might We questions to help myself understand the **struggles** of these parents and children.

At the same time, they also help me come up with some potential **features and solutions.**



Main Takeaways

1

How might we help parents **stay on top** of their kids' education without losing most of their work time?

2

How might we **guide** kids to figure out what school work to work on without relying heavily on parents?

3

How might we support parents with **resources** and help them **reflect** on their progress?

18-21

Feature Analysis

In depth look into potential main features.

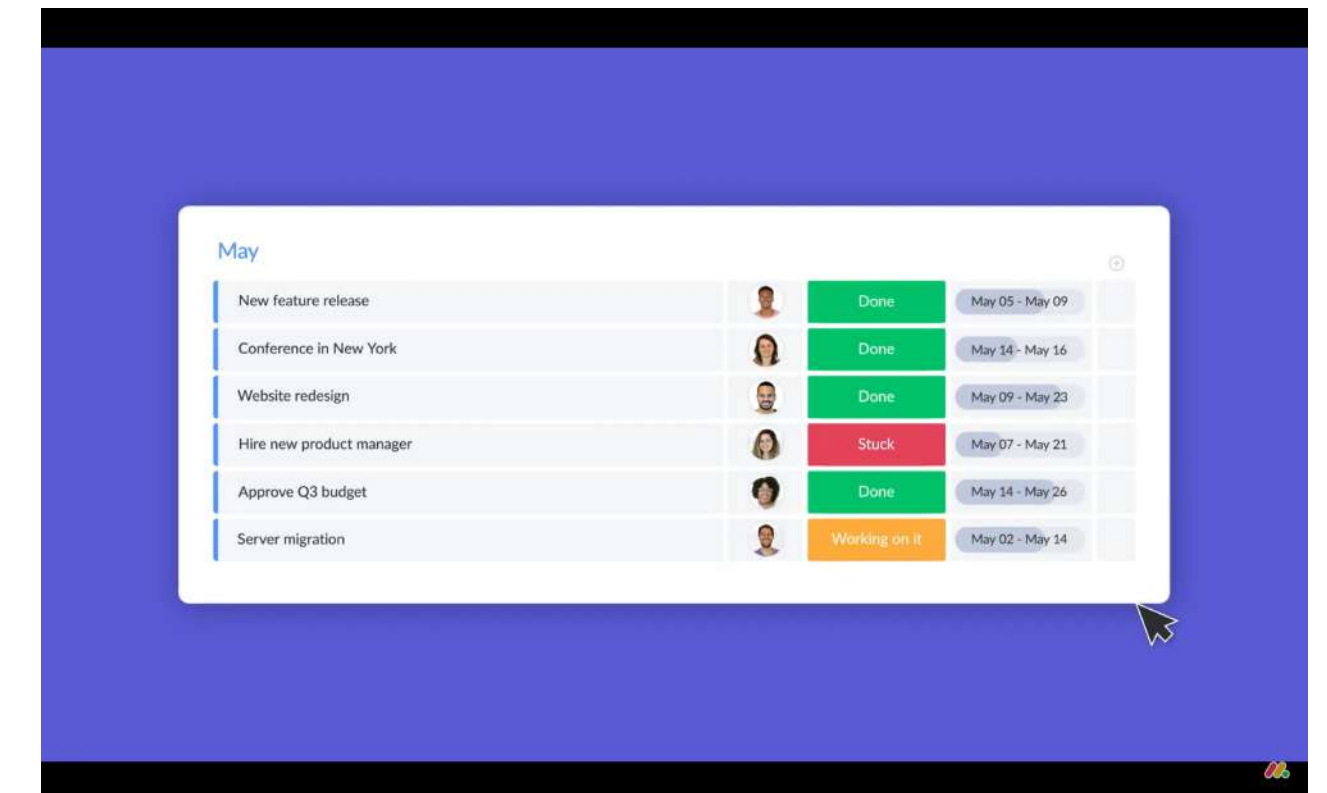
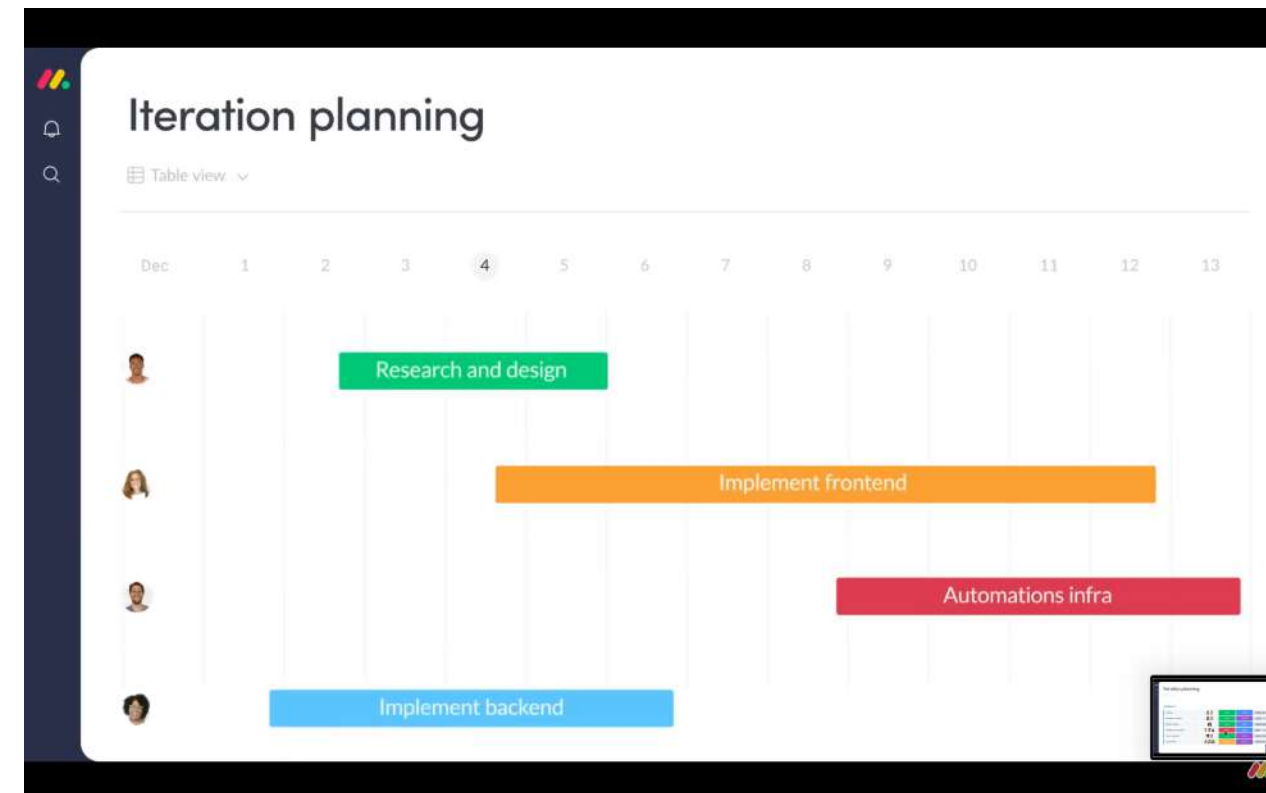
Schedule

Schedules are often messy and hard to memorize, and that's why they need to be visualized very clearly.

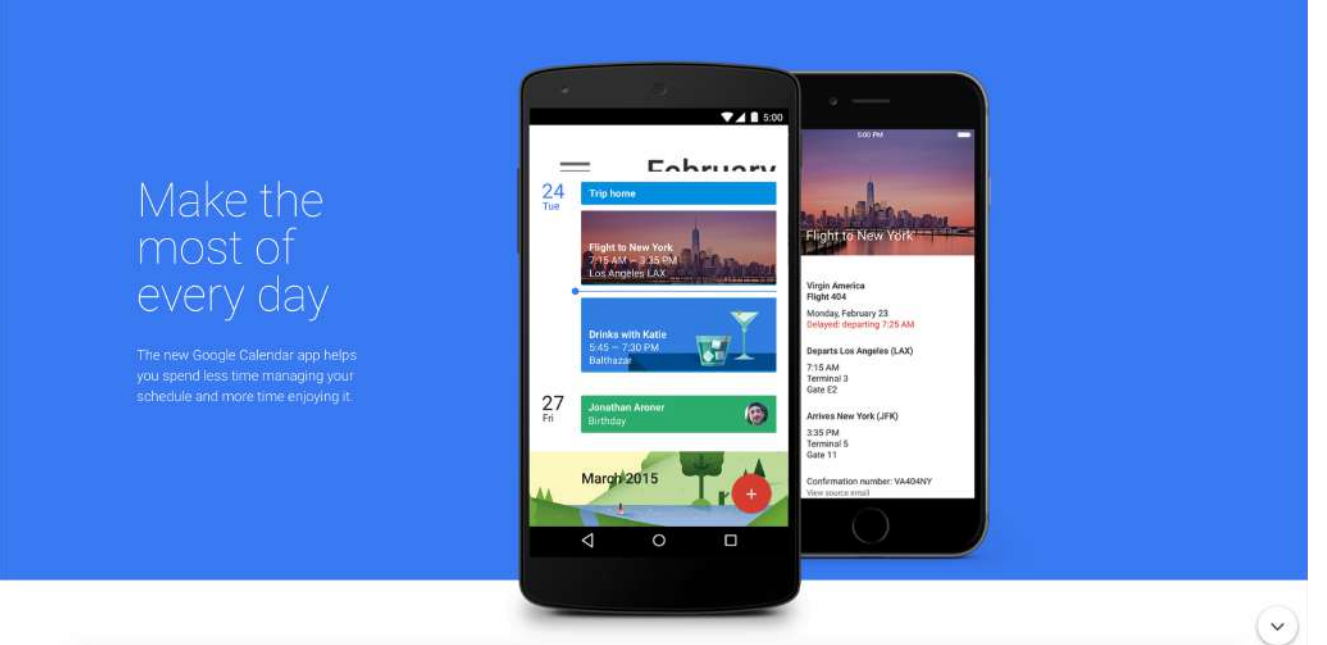
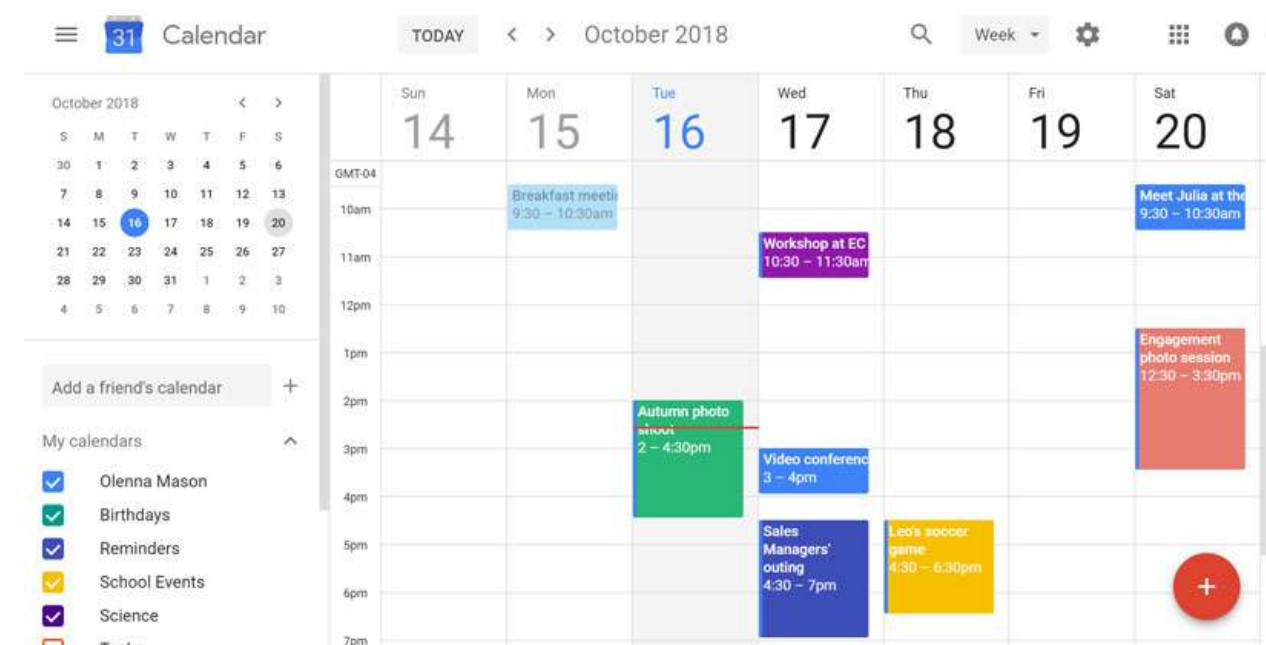
Google Calendar lists out the tasks in a day very clearly and uses color to **differentiate** the tasks.

Monday.com also uses color, but it assigns **each person a color** to separate each person's schedule.

Adding a **category** to the schedule box can help structure and balance your life.



Monday.com



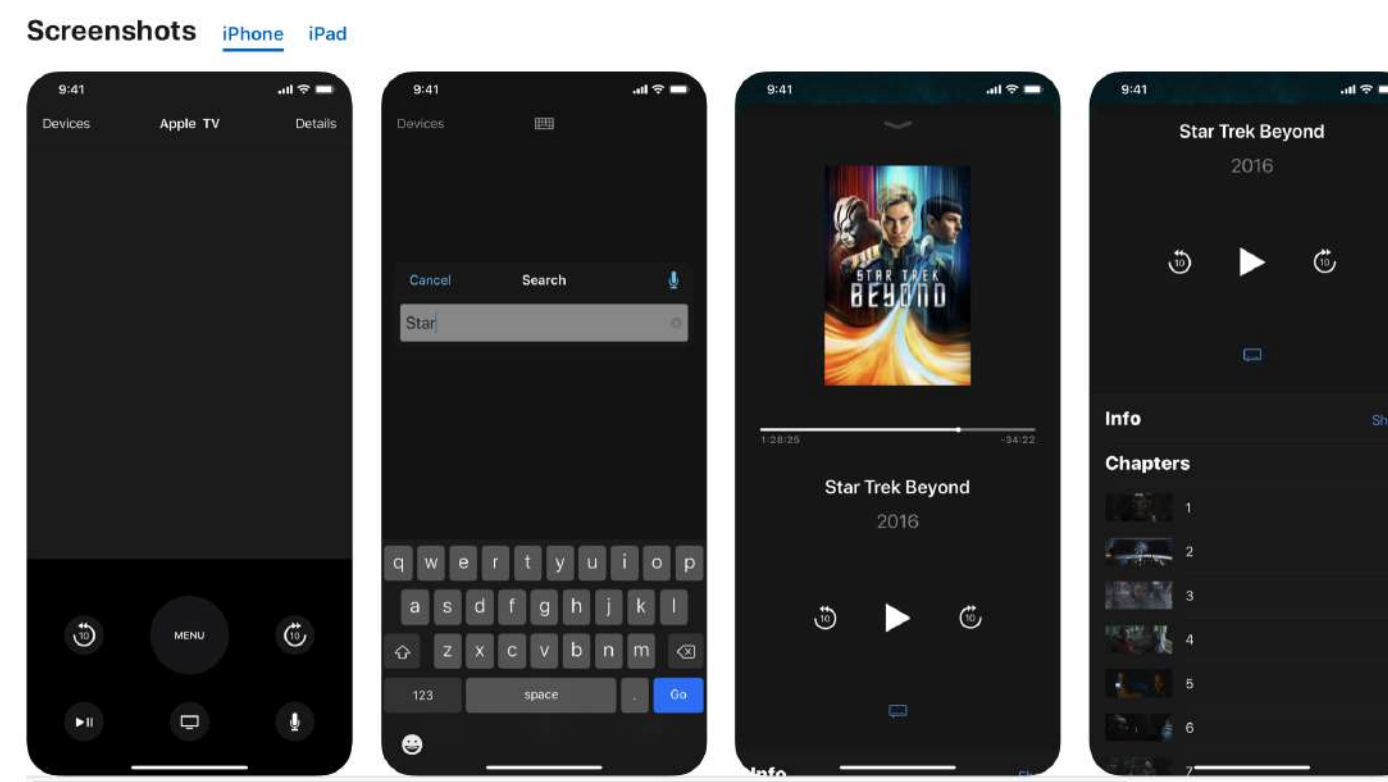
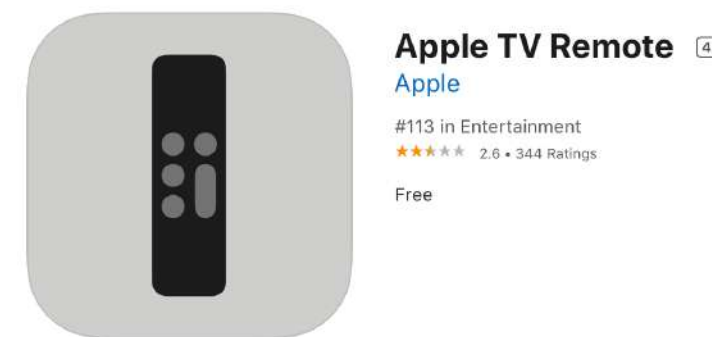
Google Calendar

Remote

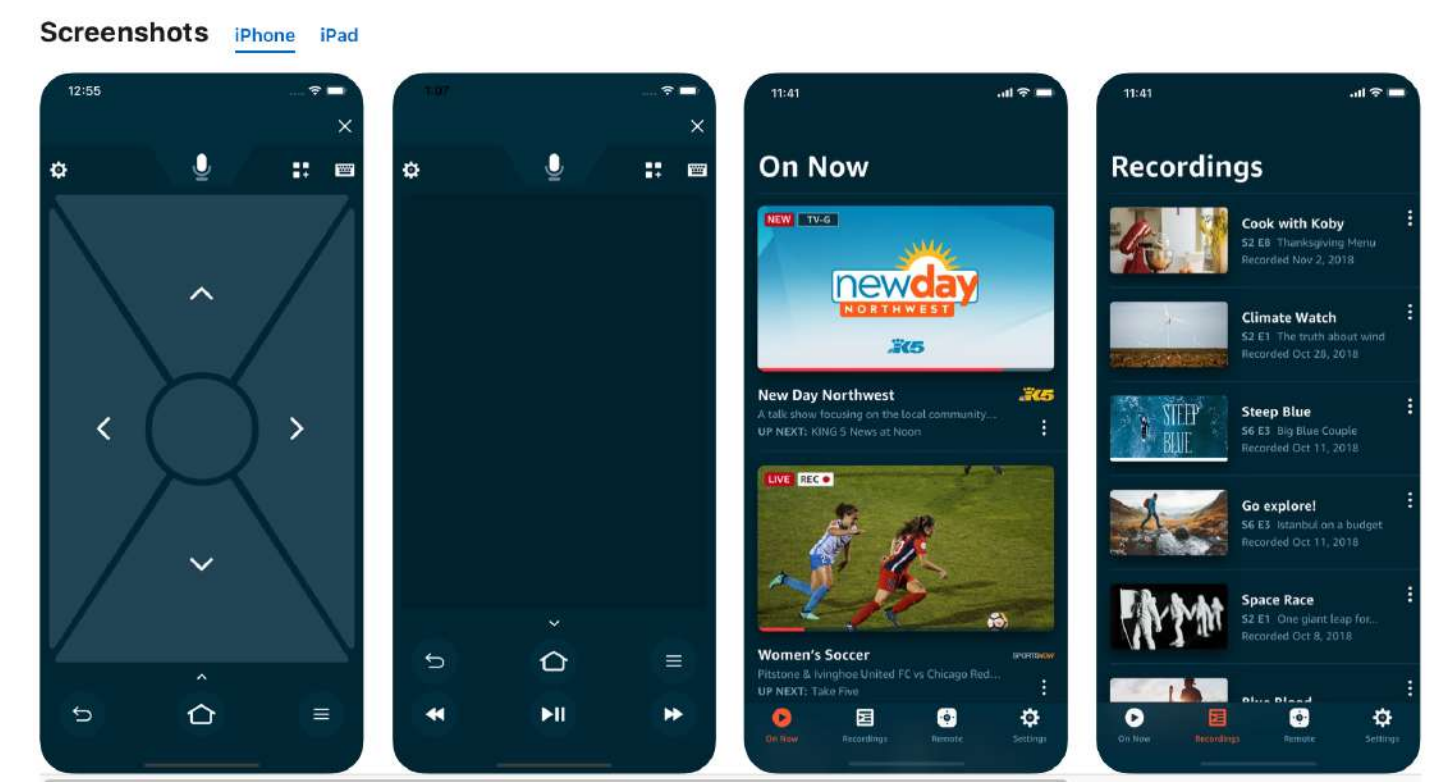
Using your phone as a remote control solves many problems such as misplacing your remote or typing a movie name on the TV interface.

Both phone remote apps from Apple and Amazon have a **main home button** or a **back button**, always giving the user a way back.

Although the central pad on the phone combines the concept of a **touch screen**, a **scroll wheel**, and a **button**, lots of people have **complained** about its useability.



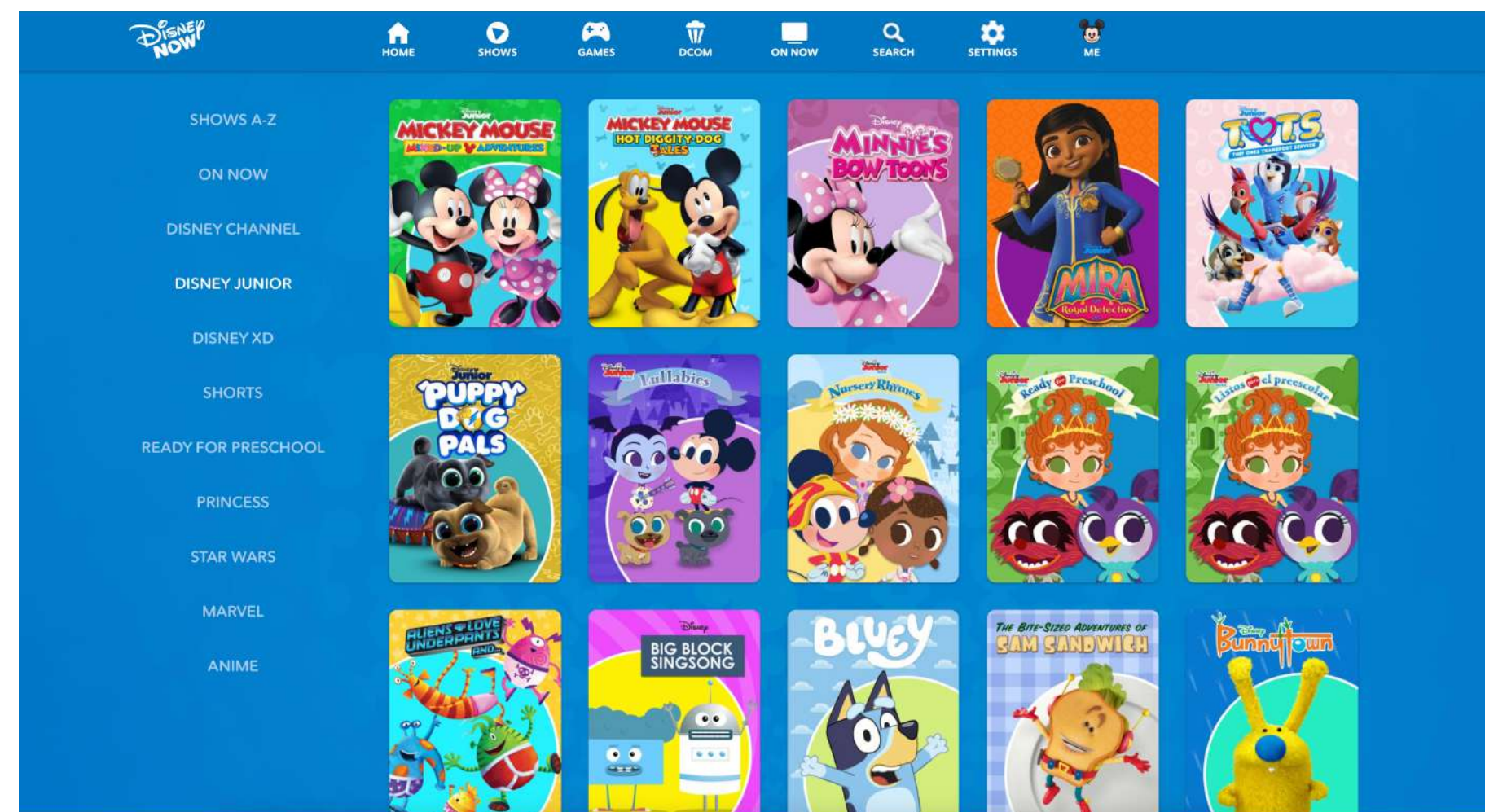
Apple TV



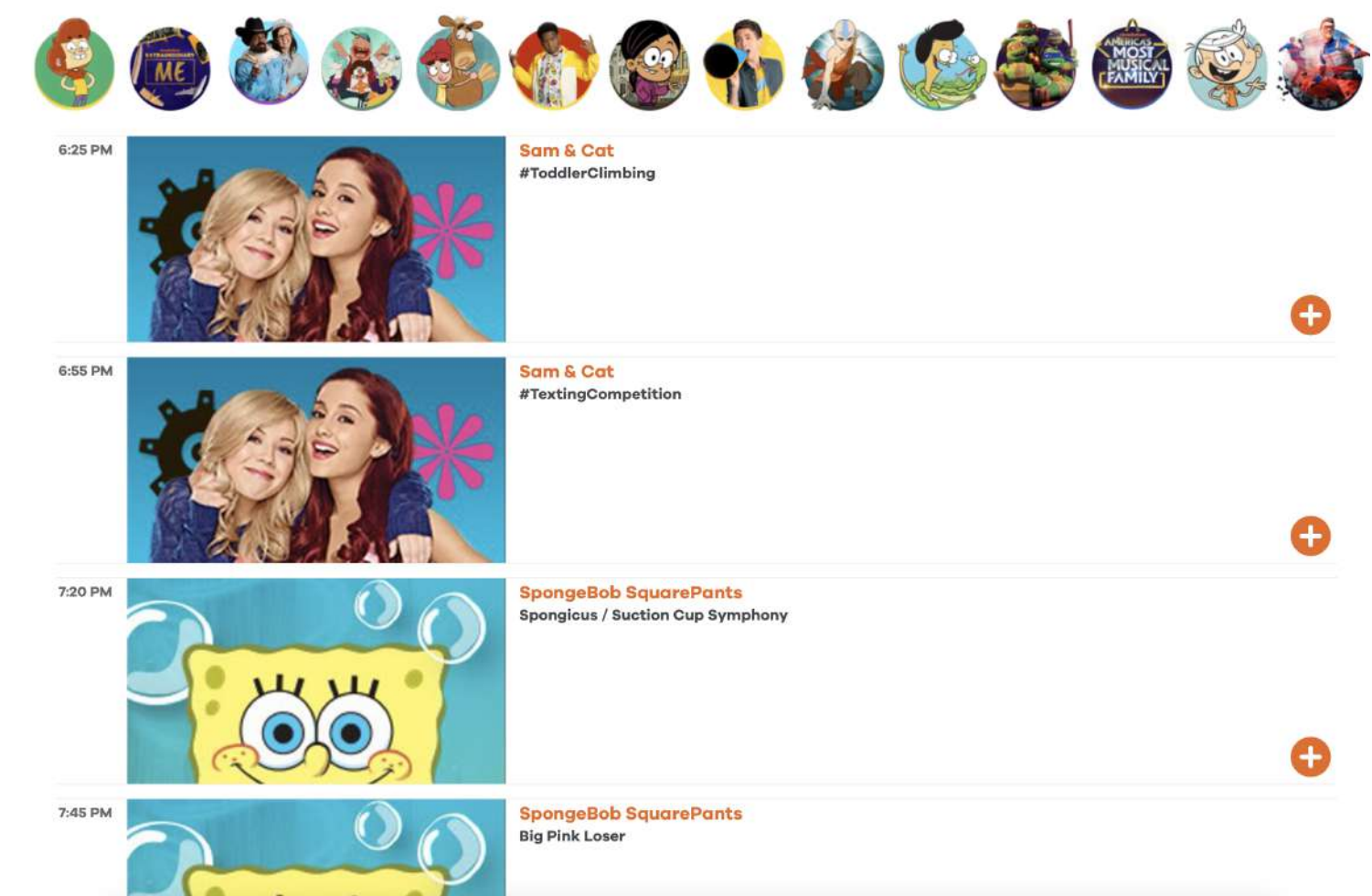
Amazon Fire TV

Children's Apps

The visual styles designed for children are generally **colorful**. They also use big and bold icons to bring **attention**. The layout is clear and simple to avoid kids getting **lost** in all the information.



Disney Now



Nickelodeon

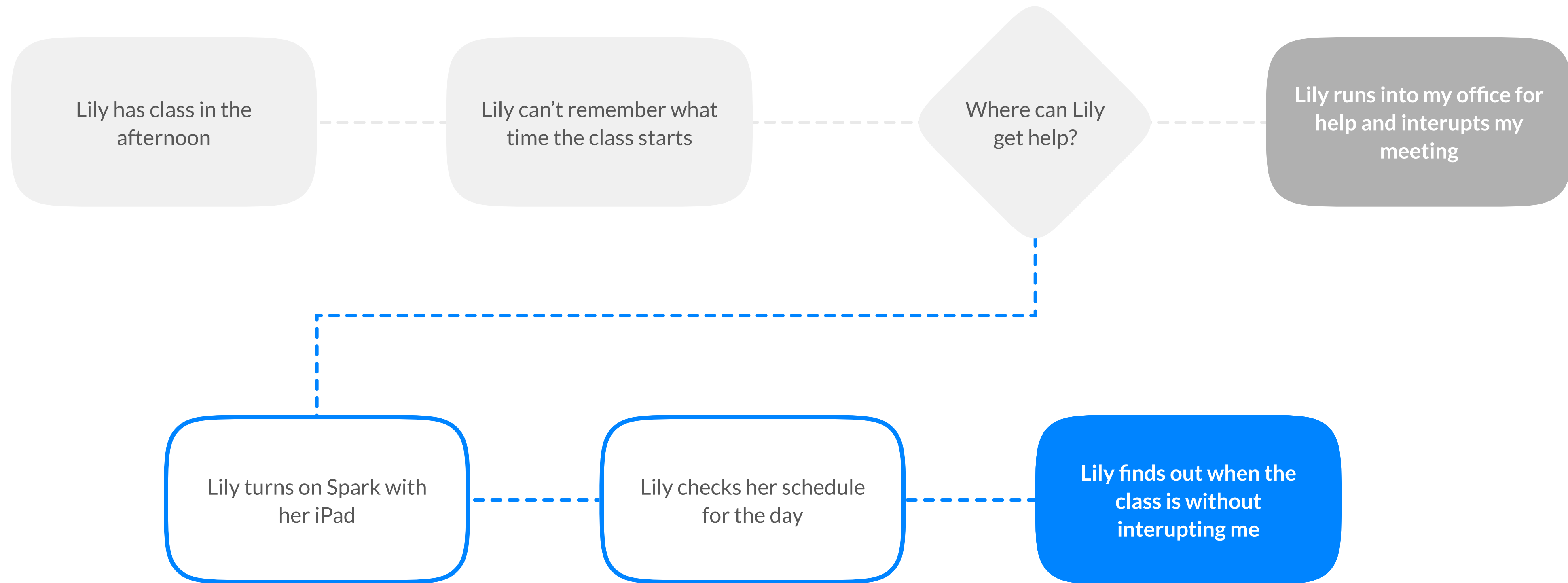
22-31

Wireframes

The drawing board of the process.

The Schedule Follower

With a schedule layed out, kids will be **more aware** of their responsibilities, and parents will feel more **in control** along with the work they already have.

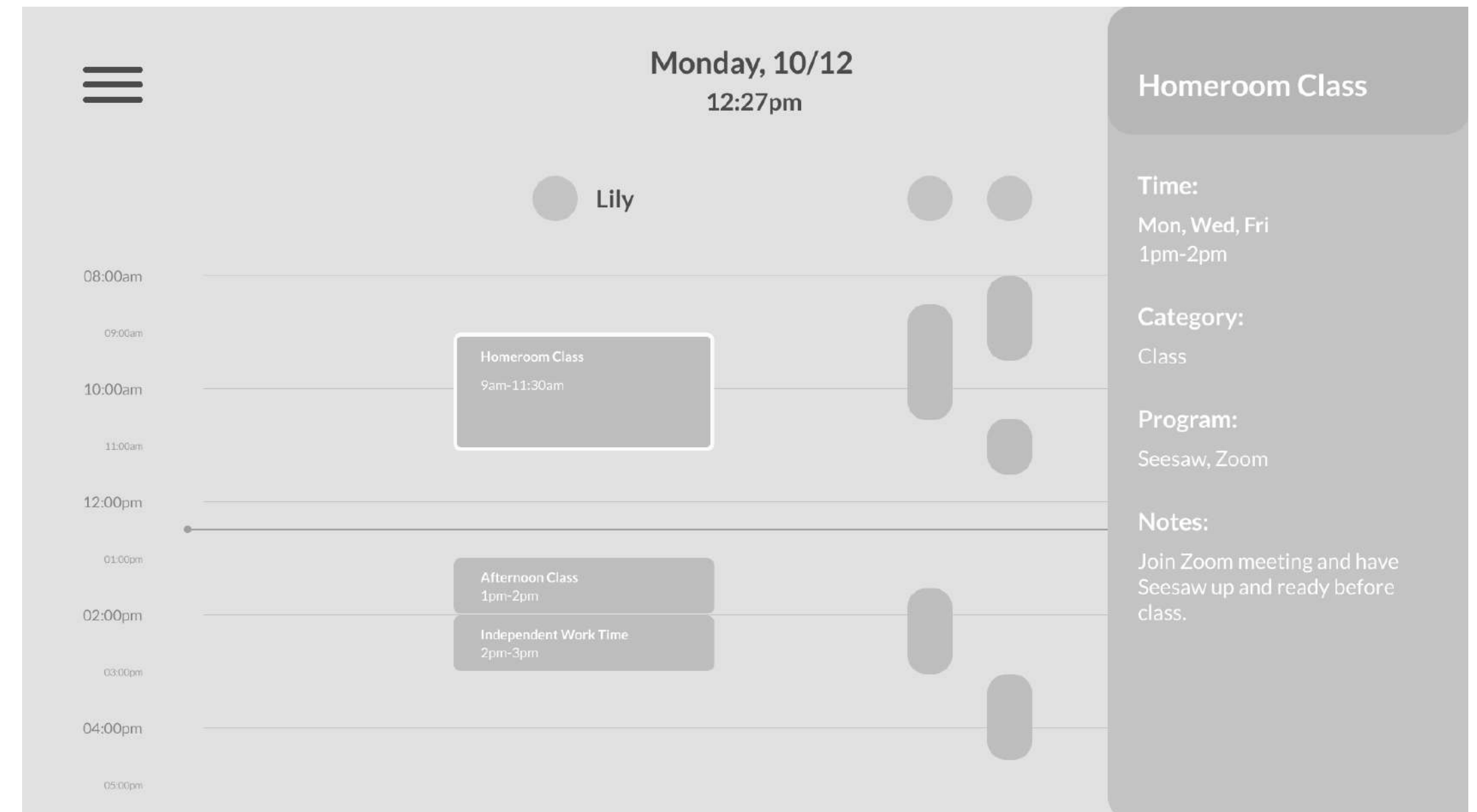


The Schedule Follower

The schedule is layed out for the user to view everyone's schedule. However, the information is **too small** and the interface is not very well **optimized** for a TV screen.



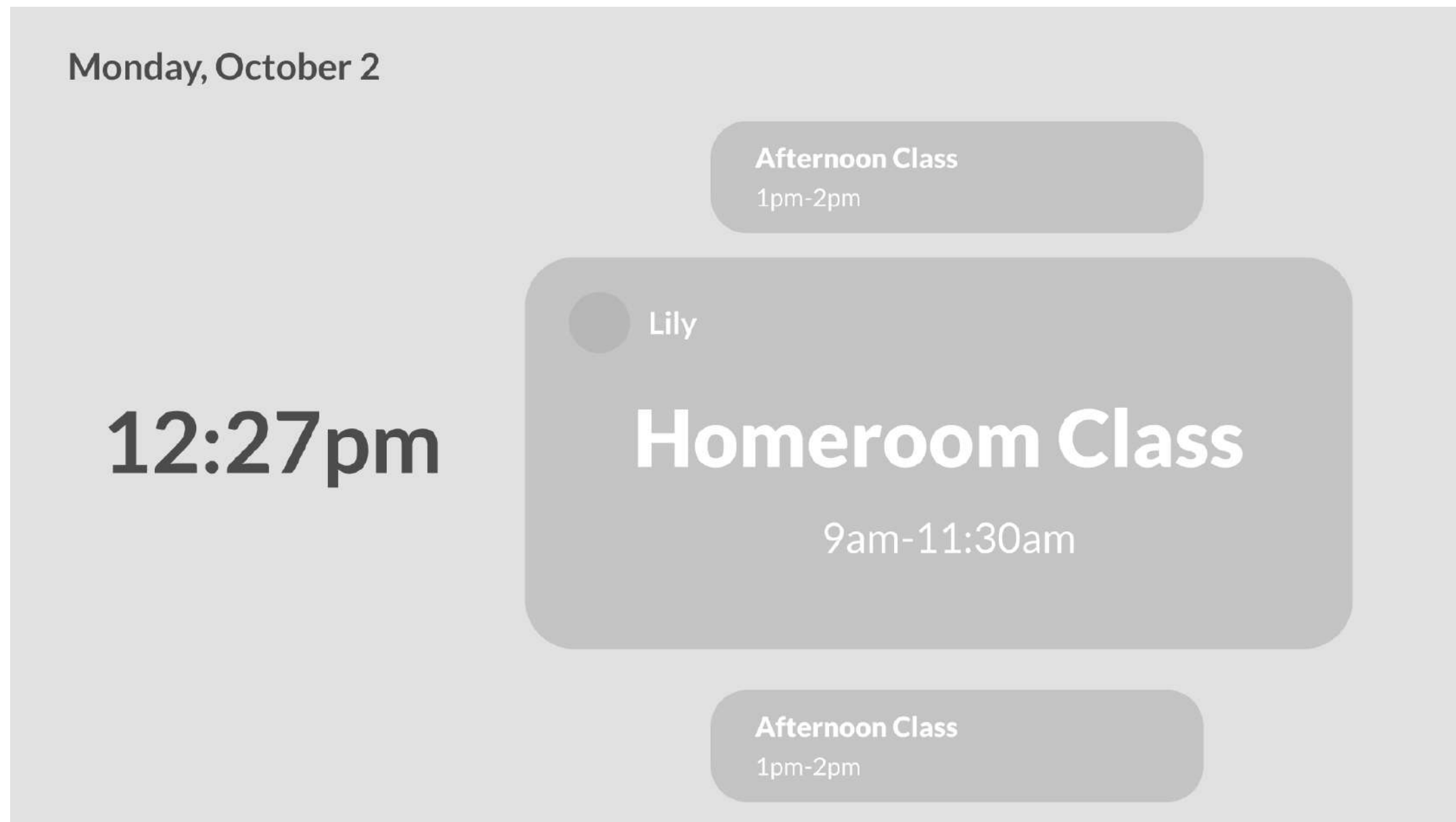
Schedule Viewer



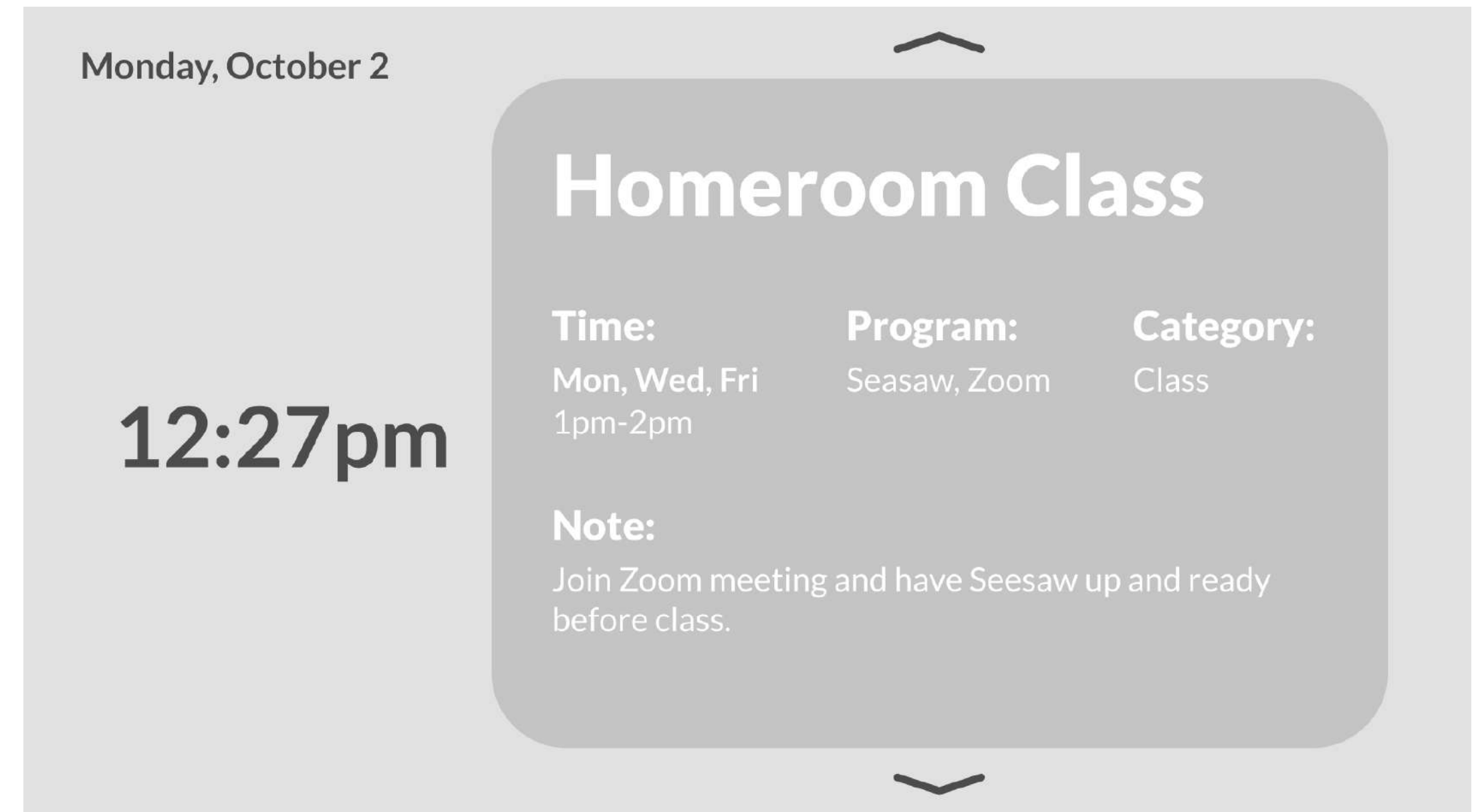
Personal Schedule

The Schedule Follower

I read the tvOS design guidelines and bumped up the **size** to focus on less information at a time, since it is **for kids** to get information as easy and fast as possible.



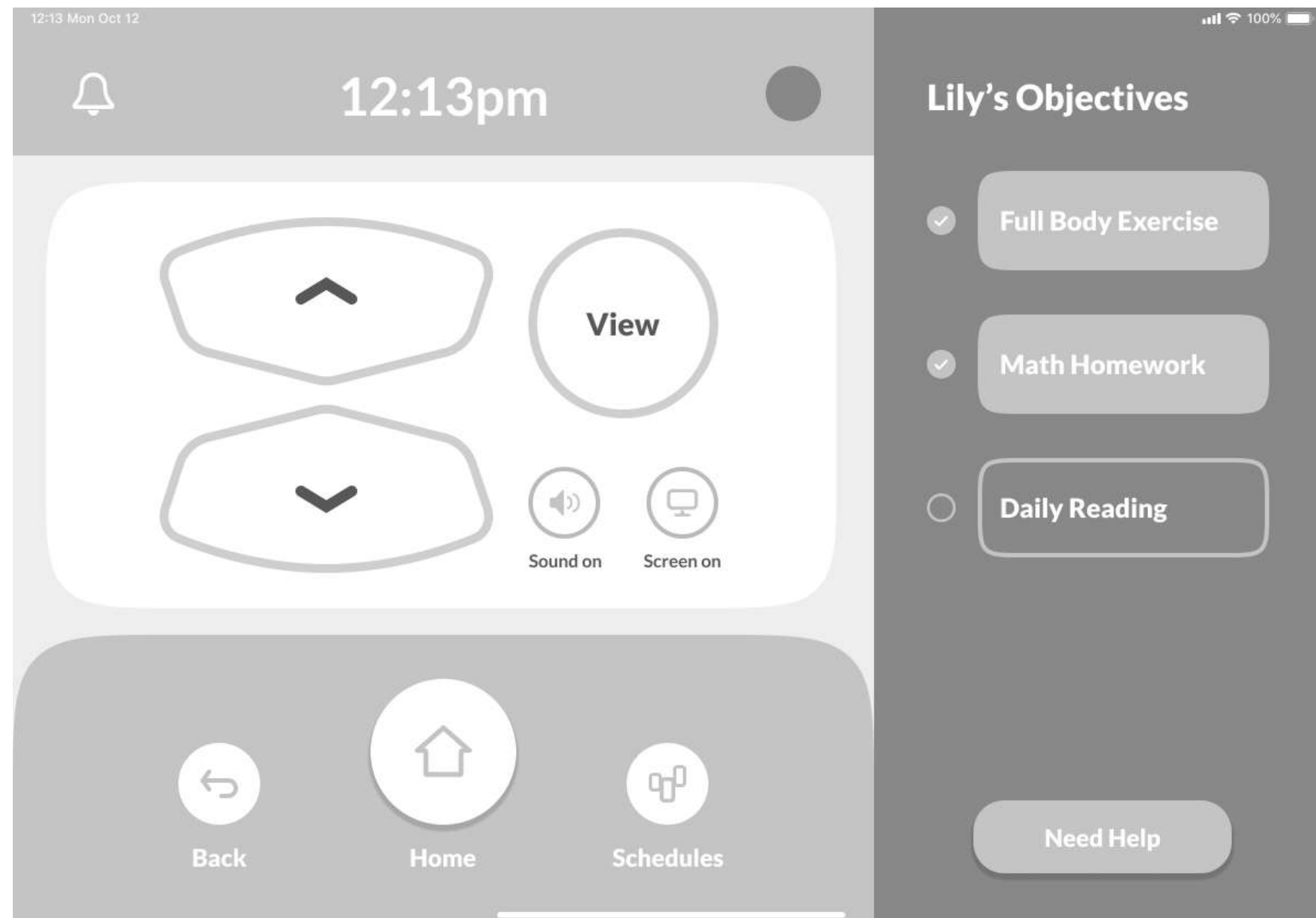
Personal Schedule



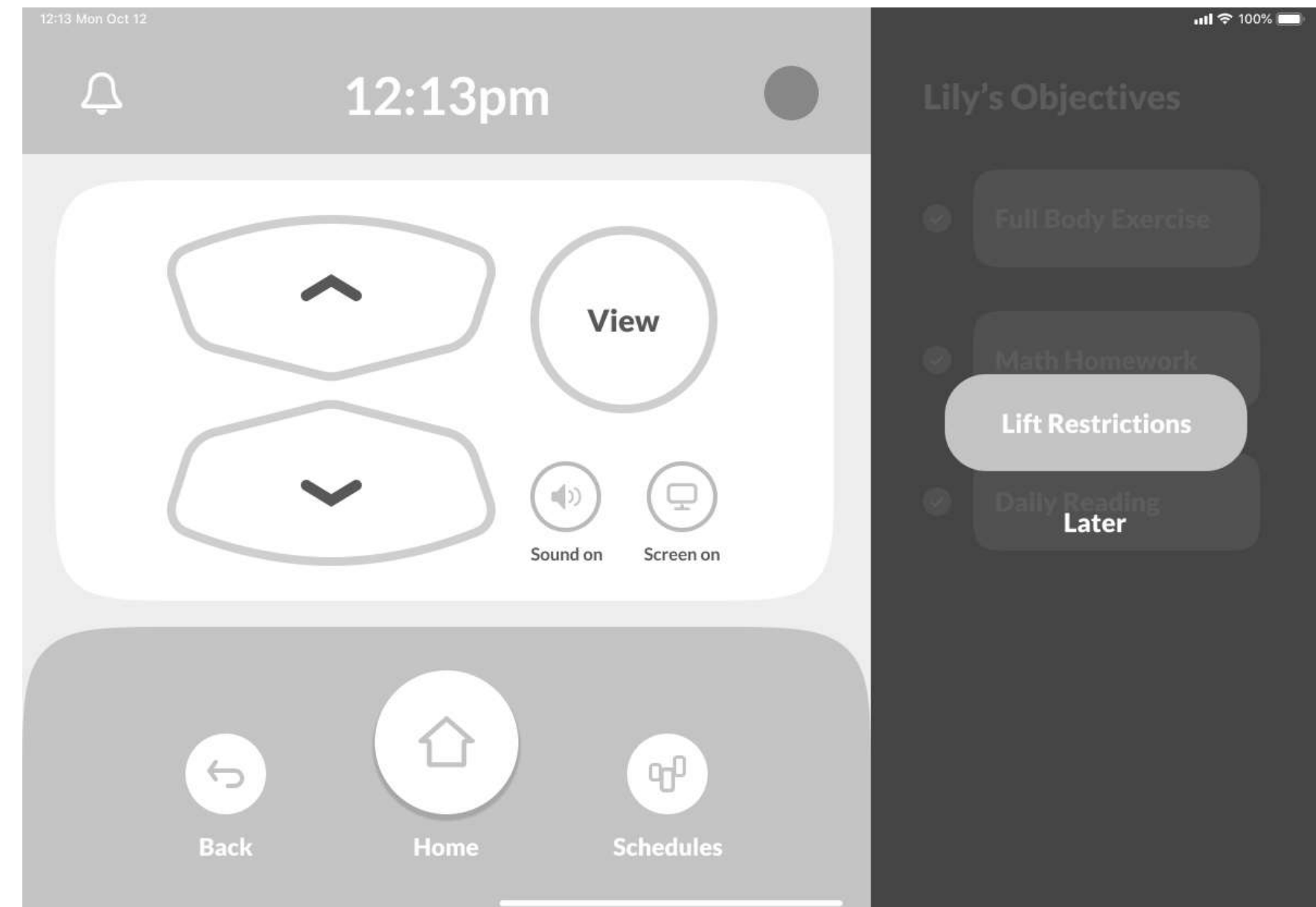
Class Information

The Schedule Follower

The controls are **big** but **limited**, only leaving the informations kids need and nothing more.



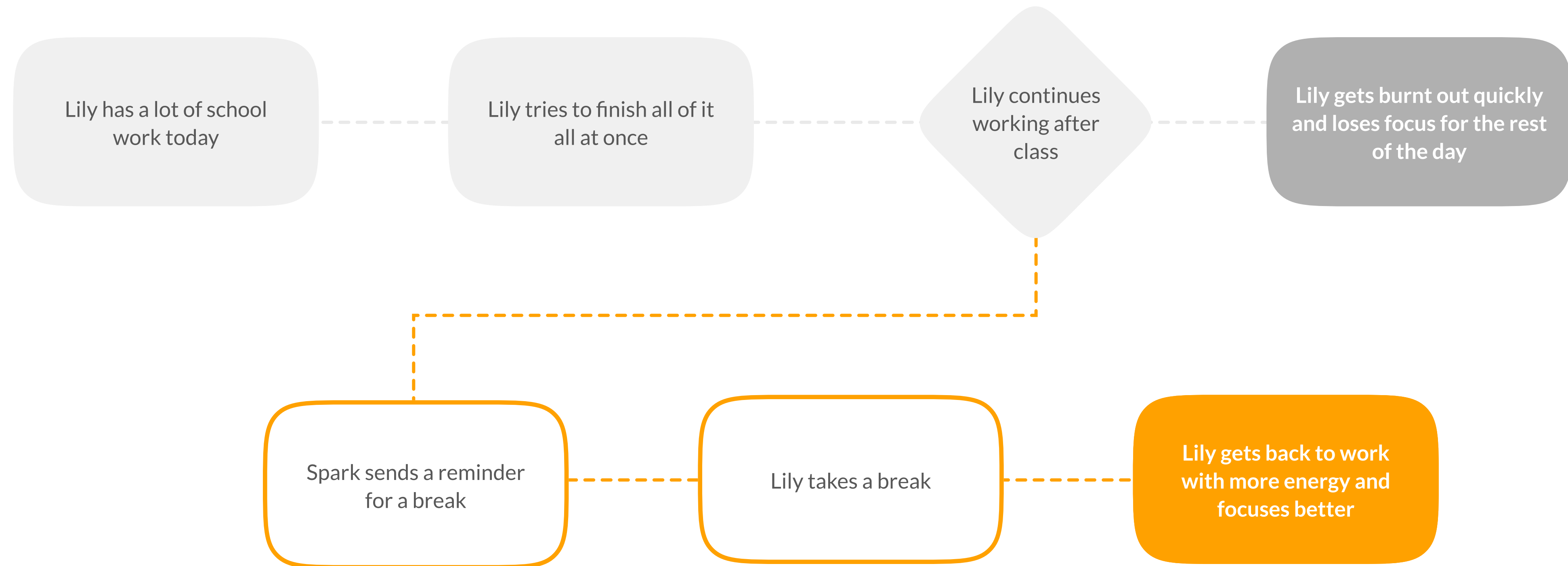
Remote/Objective List



Lift Restrictions

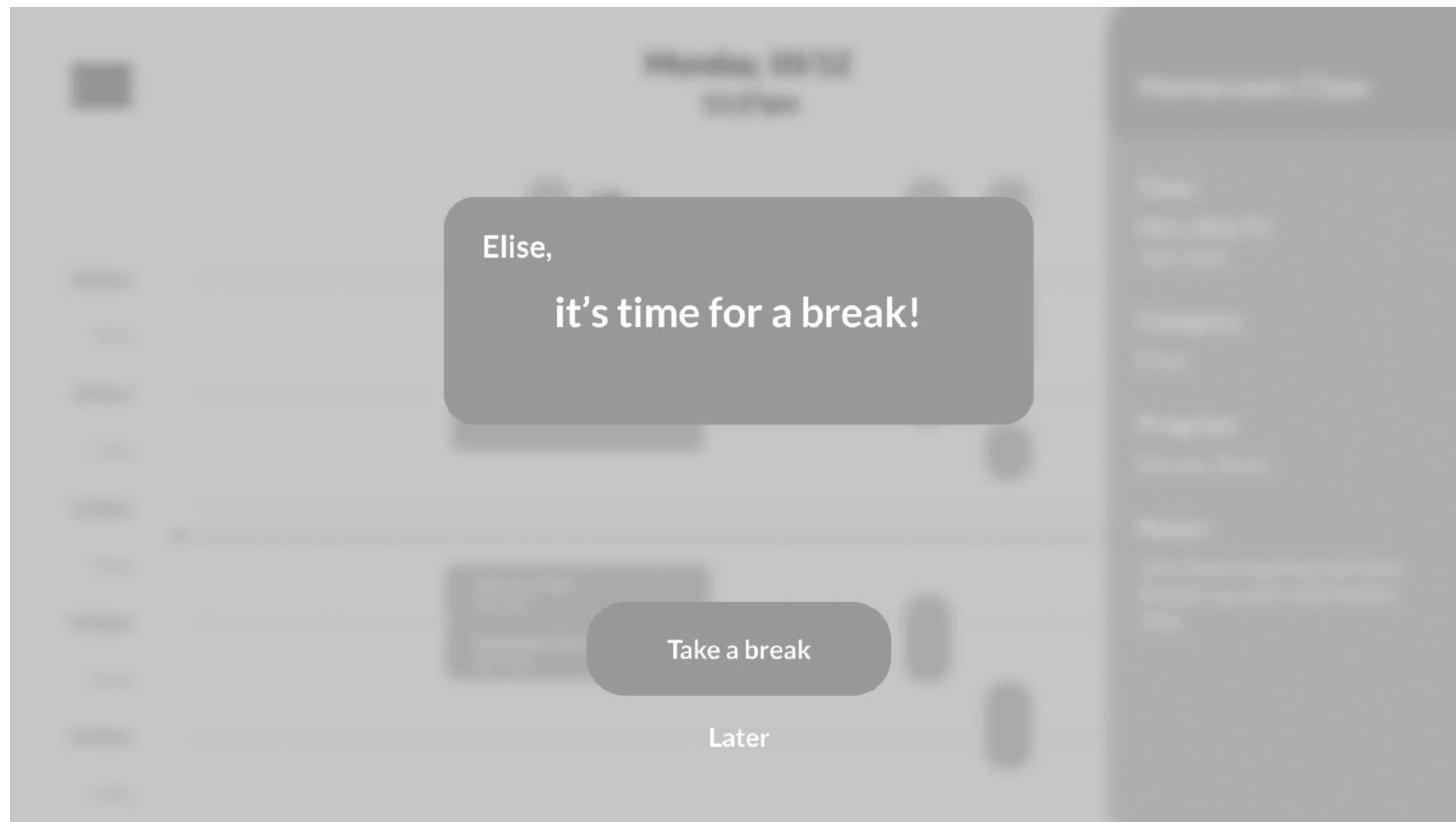
The Easily Distracted

Kids often times get easily distracted after focusing for a while without **frequent breaks**, reminders can help ensure a **healthy work time** for kids.

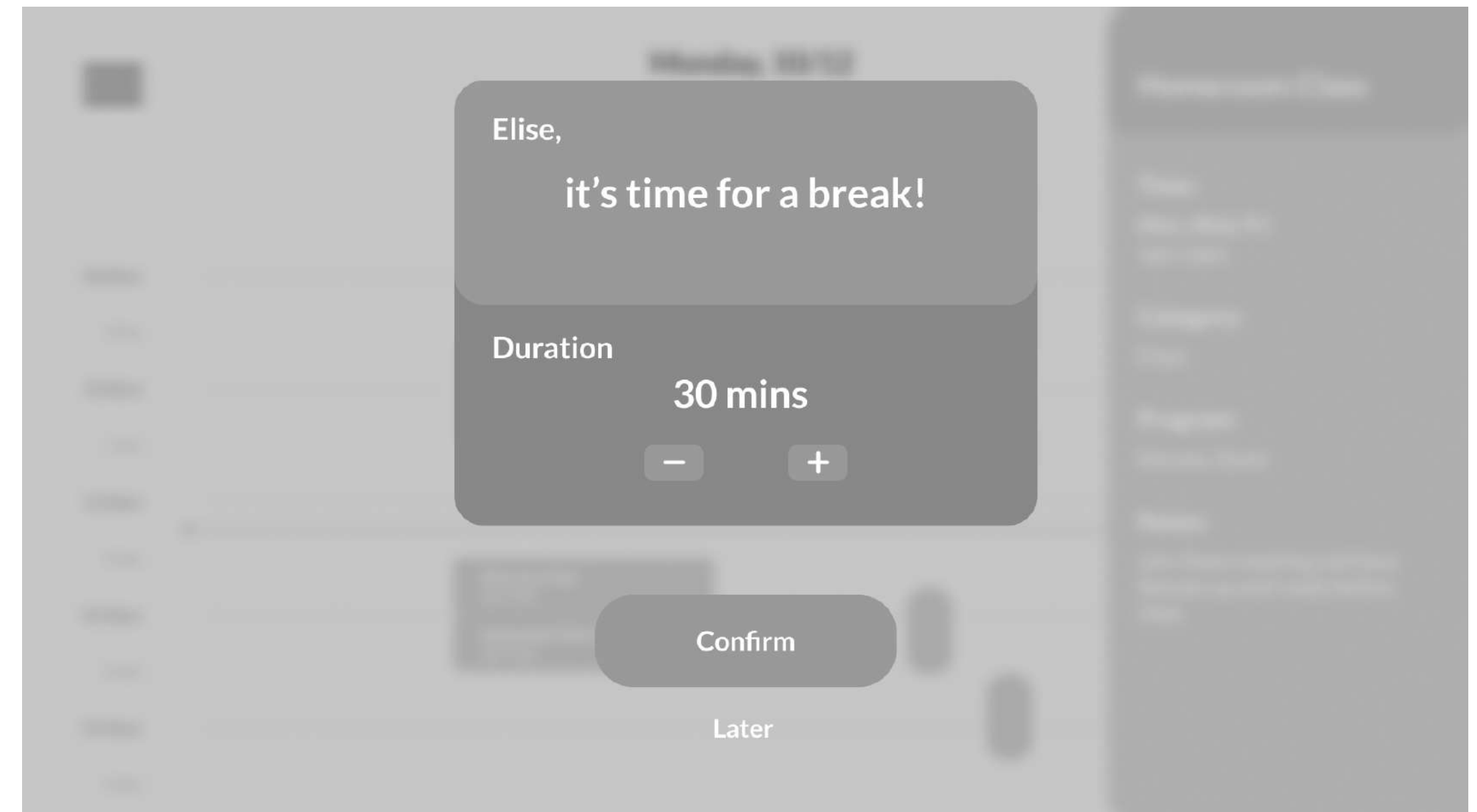


The Easily Distracted

The reminder pops up on the TV screen, **reminding** the kids to take a break. The system gives the kids an option to customize the **break length**.



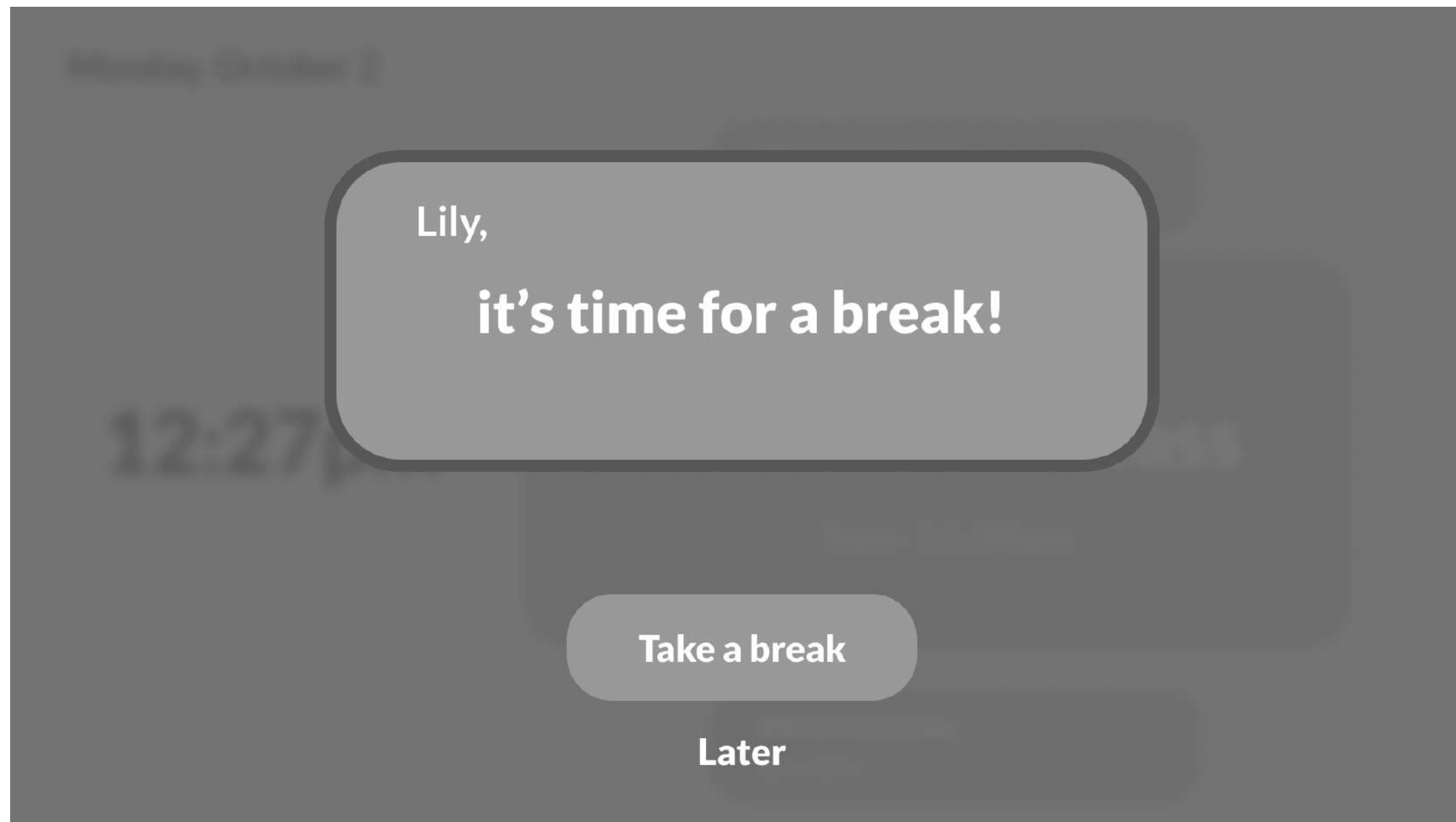
Reminder



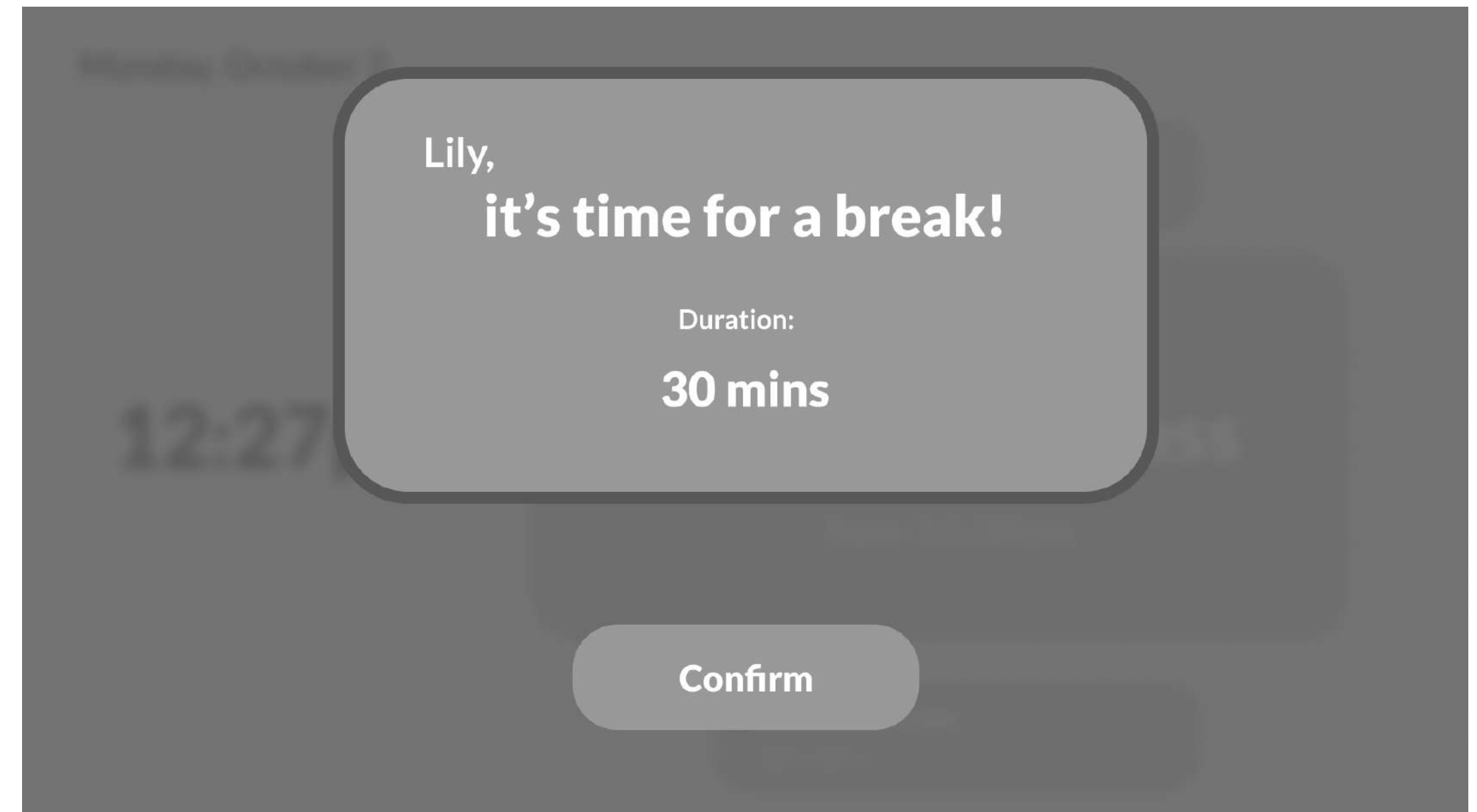
Time Customization

The Easily Distracted

The reminder is also updated to a more TV friendly interface with more **accessible text** sizes and larger boxes.



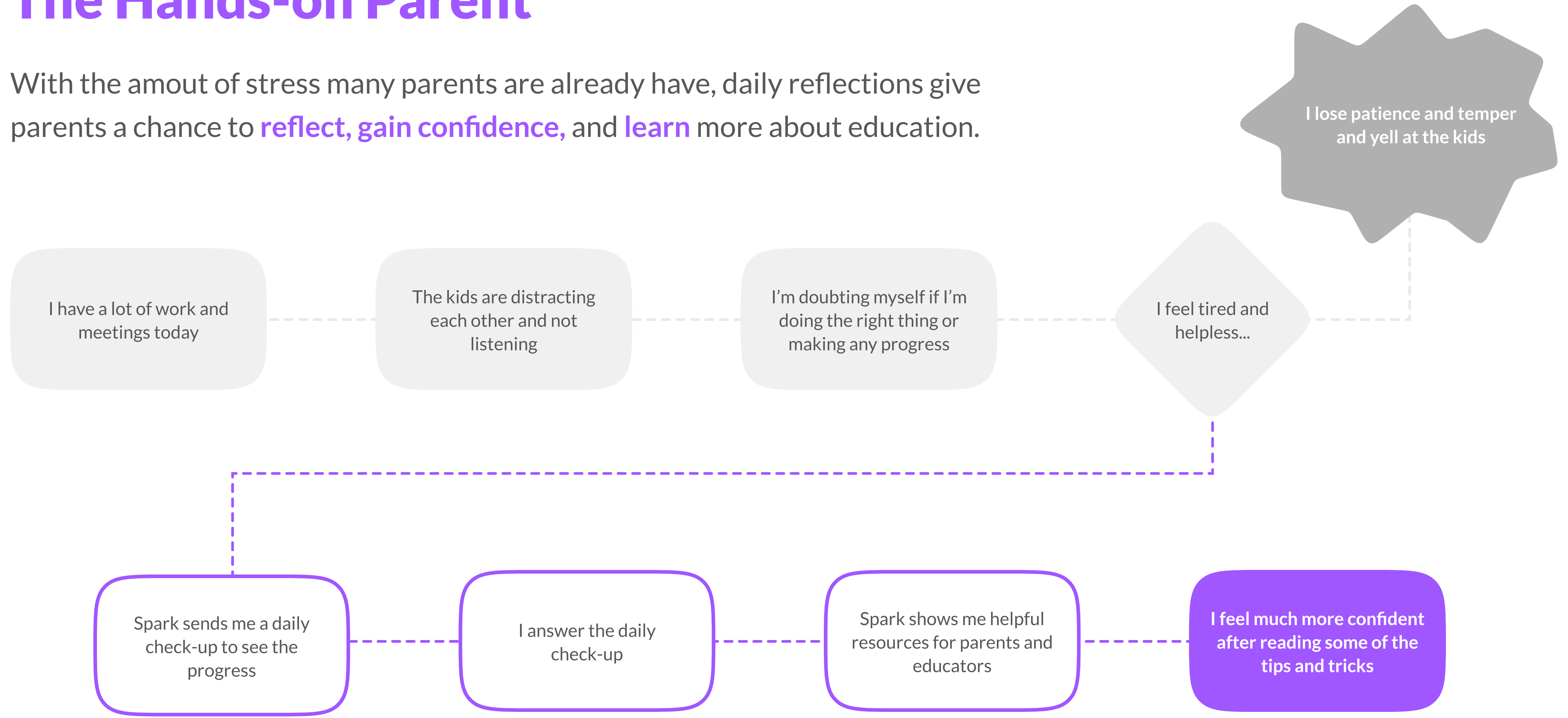
Reminder



Time Customization

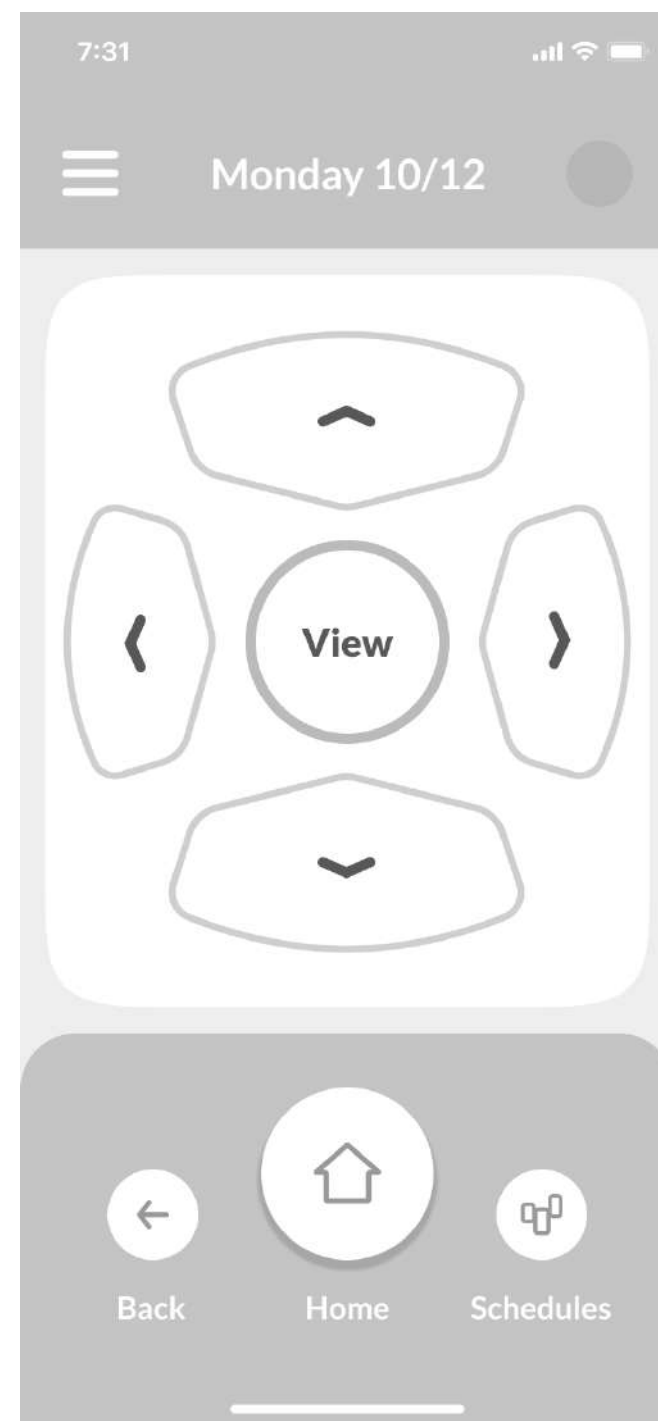
The Hands-on Parent

With the amount of stress many parents already have, daily reflections give parents a chance to **reflect, gain confidence,** and **learn** more about education.

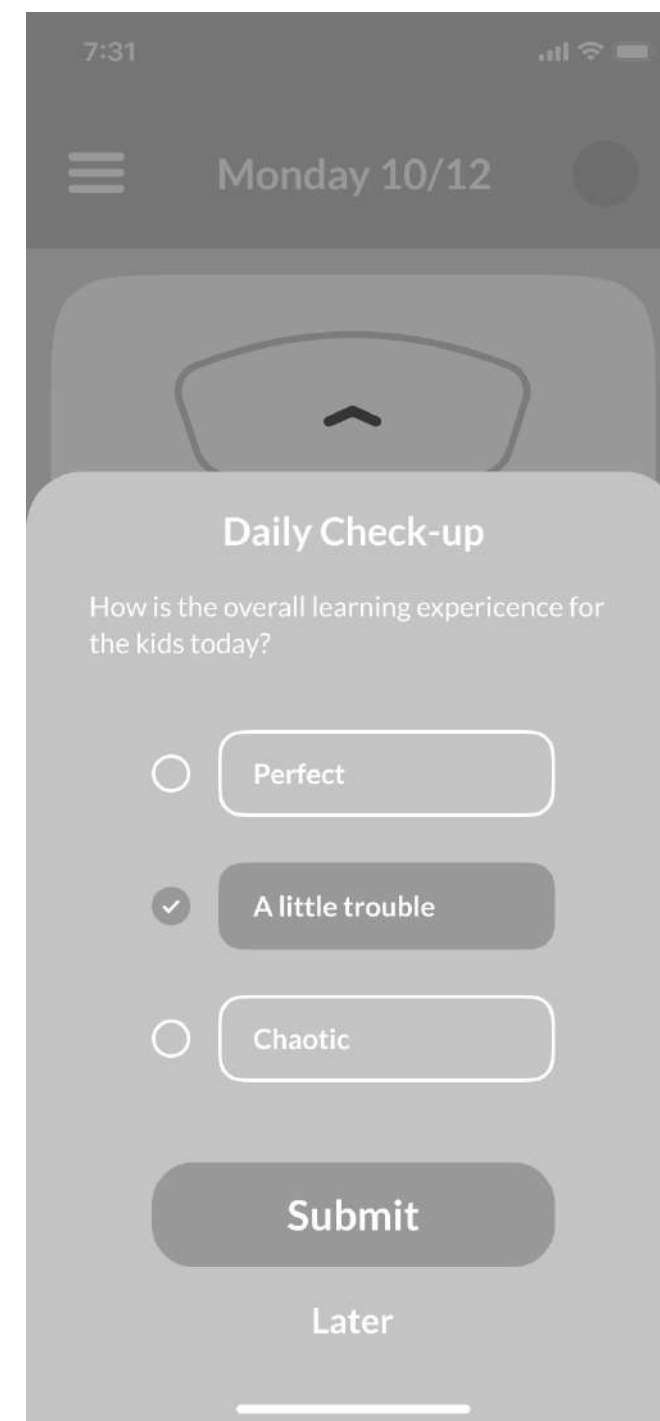


The Hands-on Parent

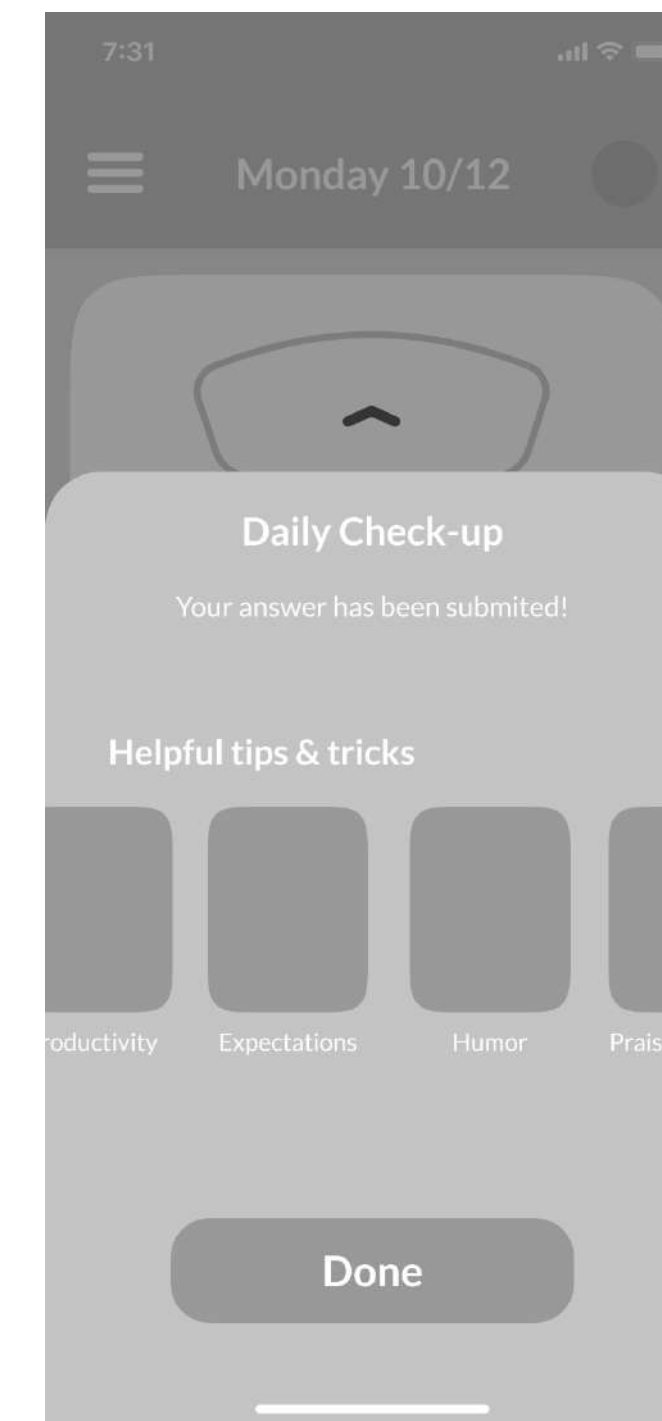
The parent interface is designed on a mobile device for **notifications** and **mobility**. Parents will be able to get updates as often as possible.



Parent Remote



Daily Check-up



Education Resources

32-34

Visual Style

The look and feel of the system.

MOOD BOARD

Bold and Vibrant

The bright vibrant colors offer an **inviting** and **approachable** feeling. At the same time, the sense of organization creates a **clean** headspace for thoughts.

The teamwork of color and organization paves a **clear** way to productive workflows.

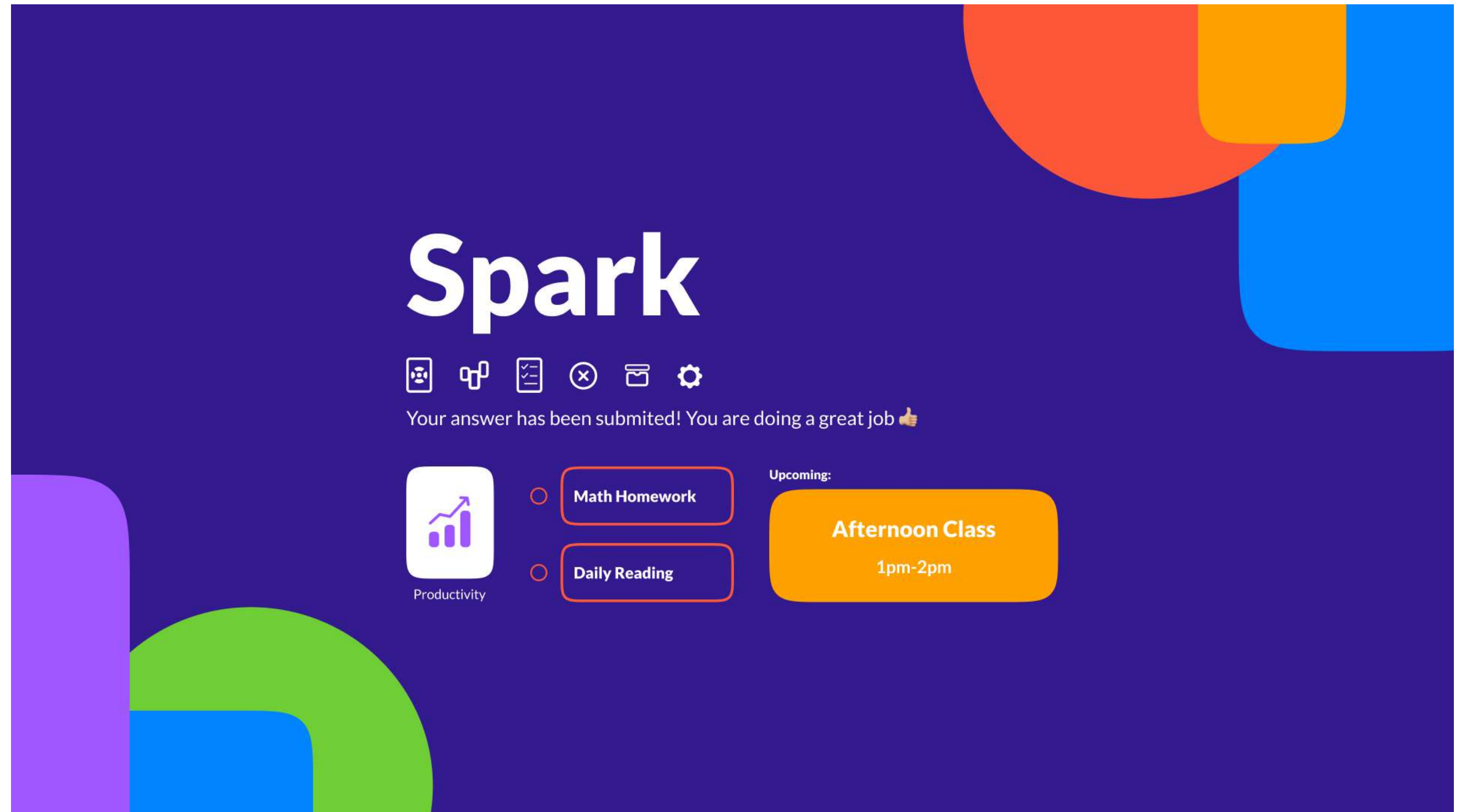


STYLE BOARD

Bold and Vibrant

To achieve the **inviting** and **approachable** feeling for the kids, the style implements bright and rounded designs.

The rounded corners have strong corner smoothing to create a **bubbly** mood.

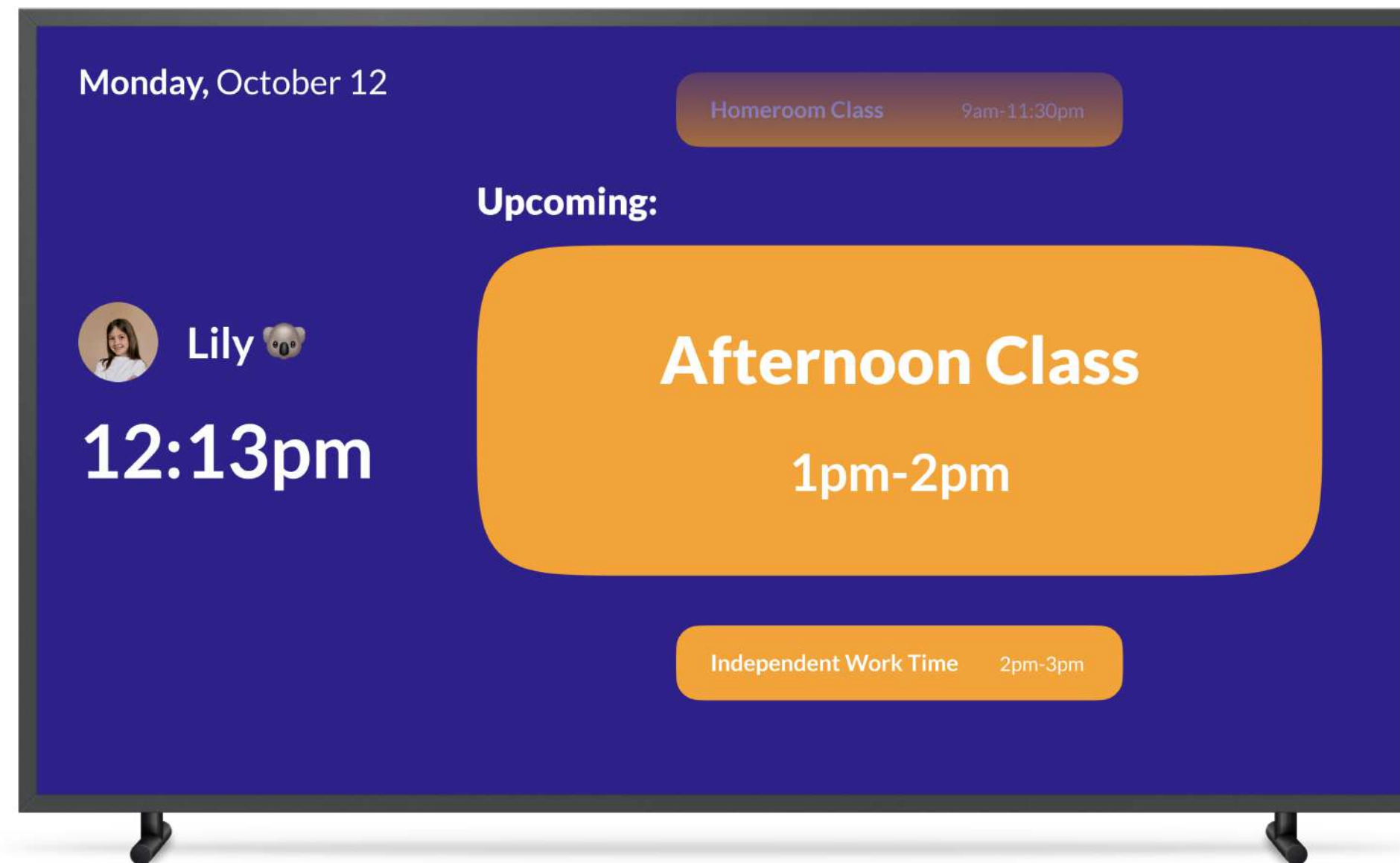


35-39

Solution Screens

The final design.

Personal Schedule

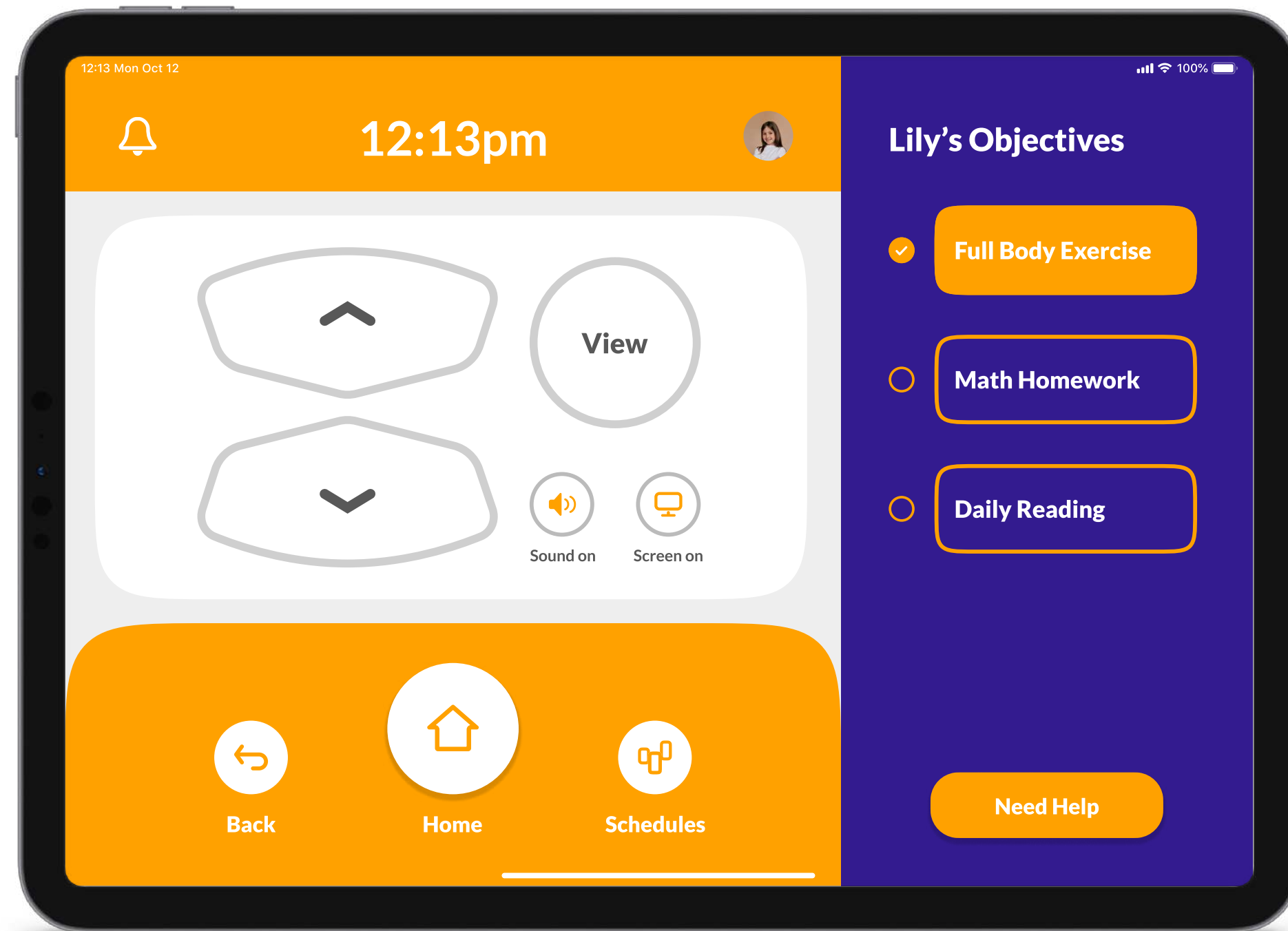


Personal schedule

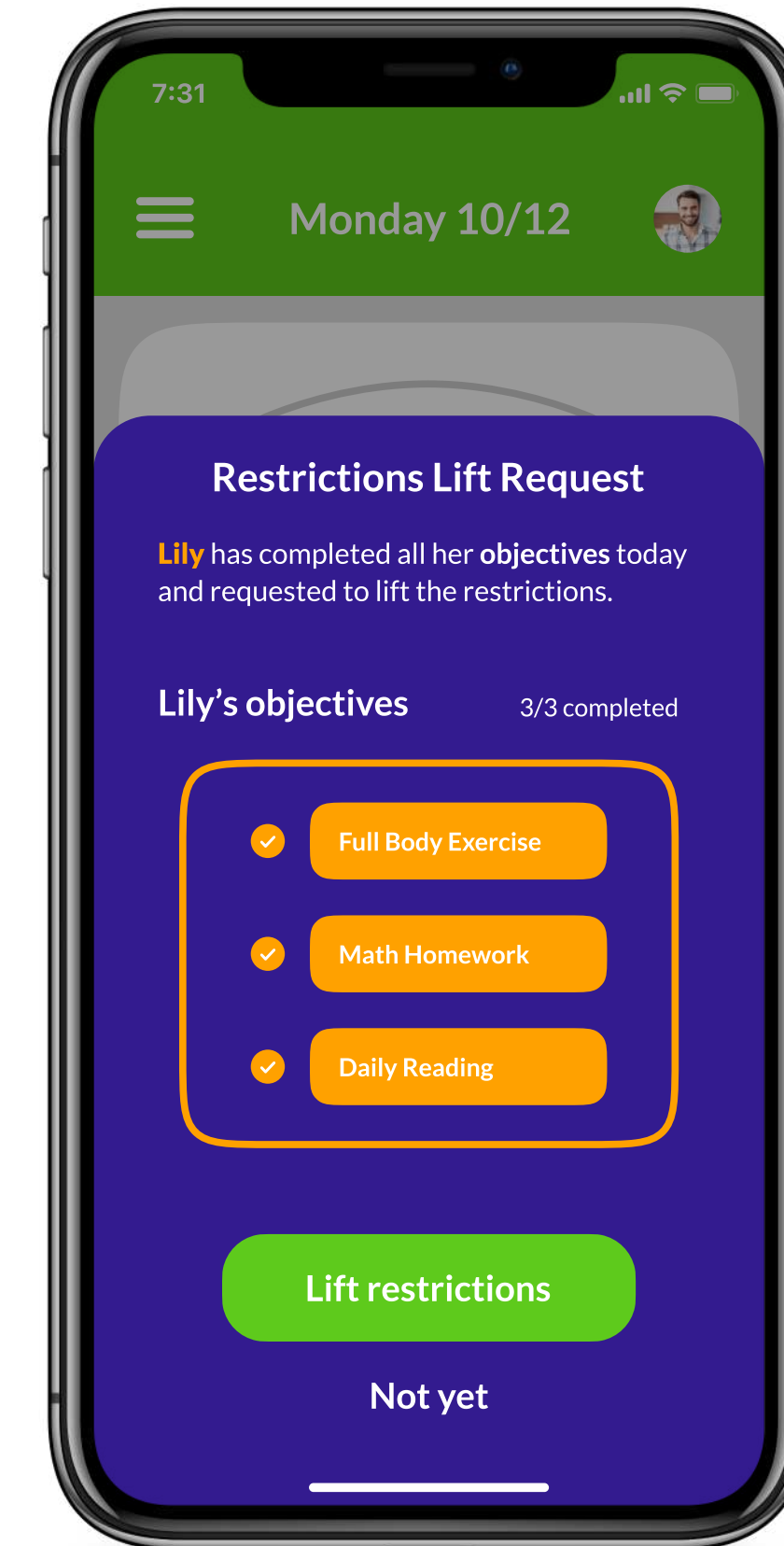


Family schedule

Objective List

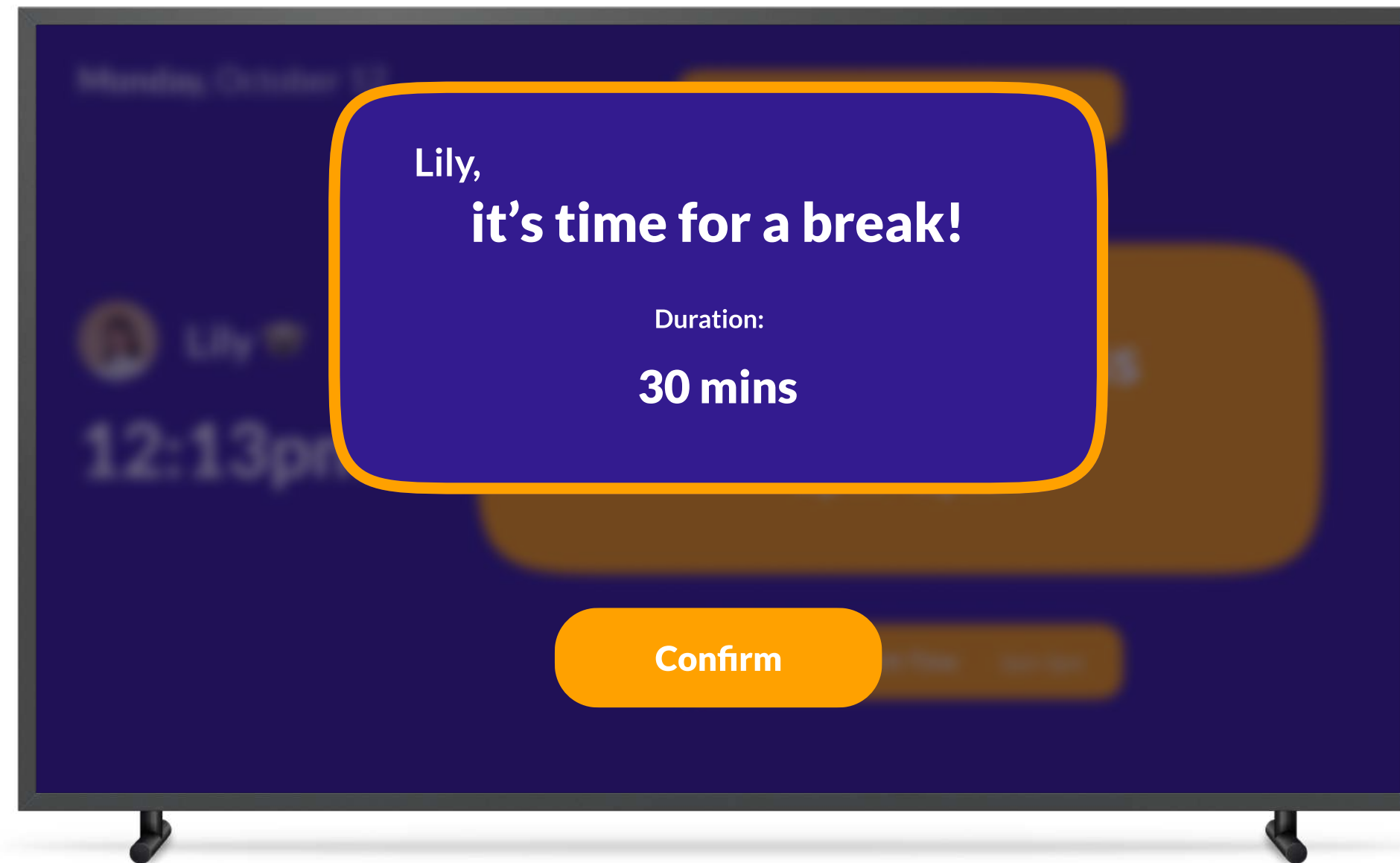


Objective list



Restrictions request
(Parent Device)

Reminder

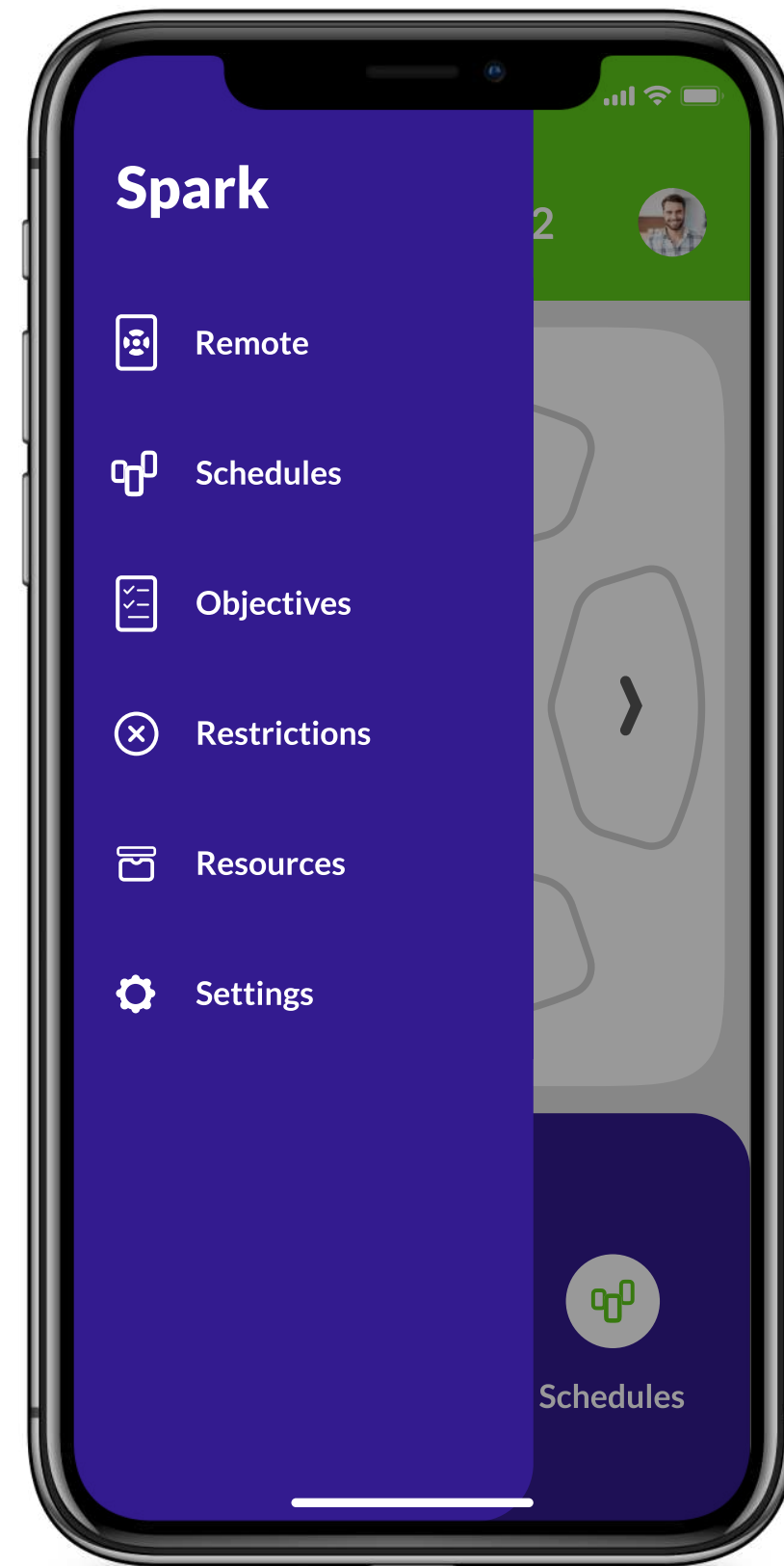


Break time reminder

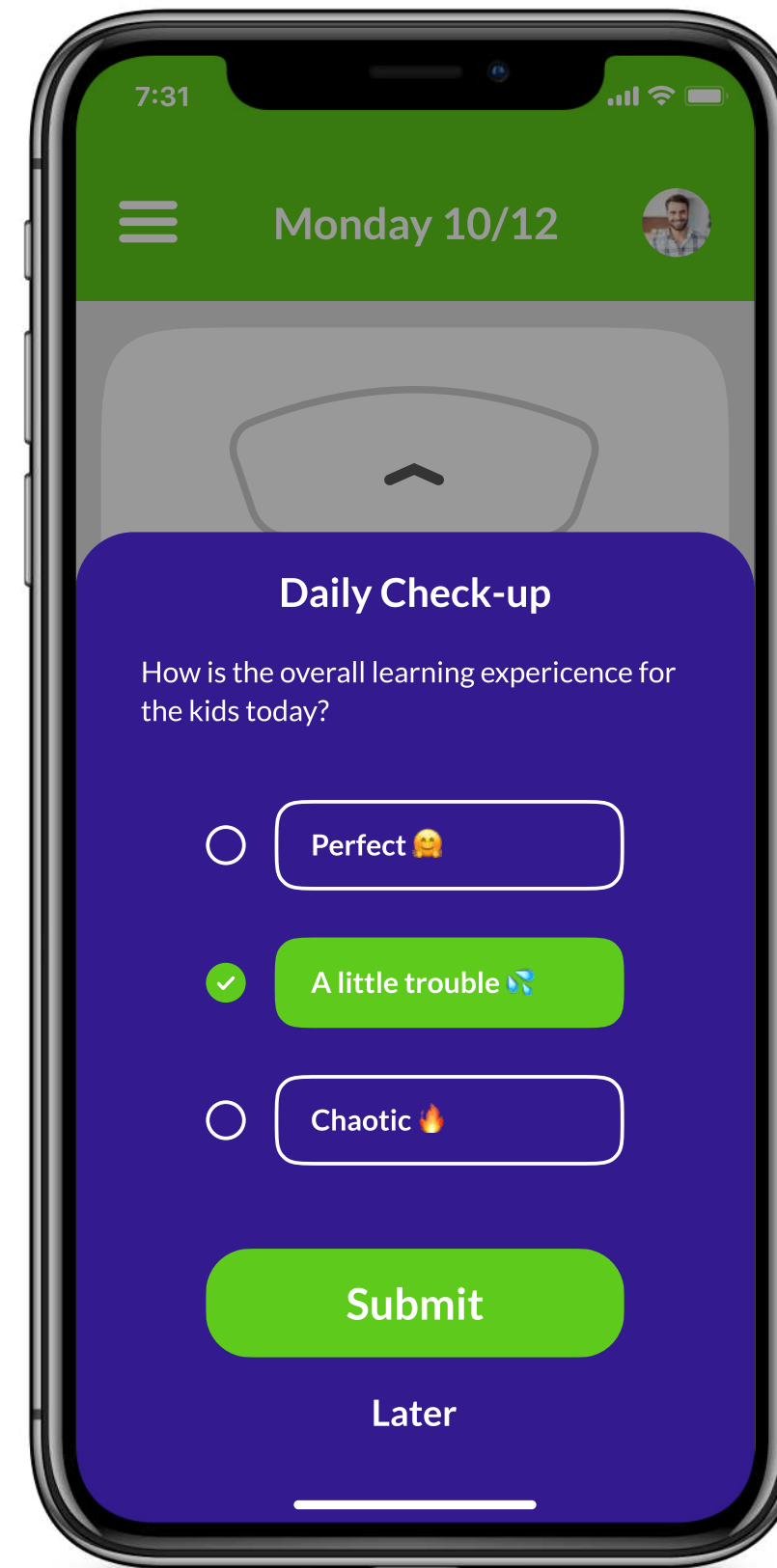


Reminder messages

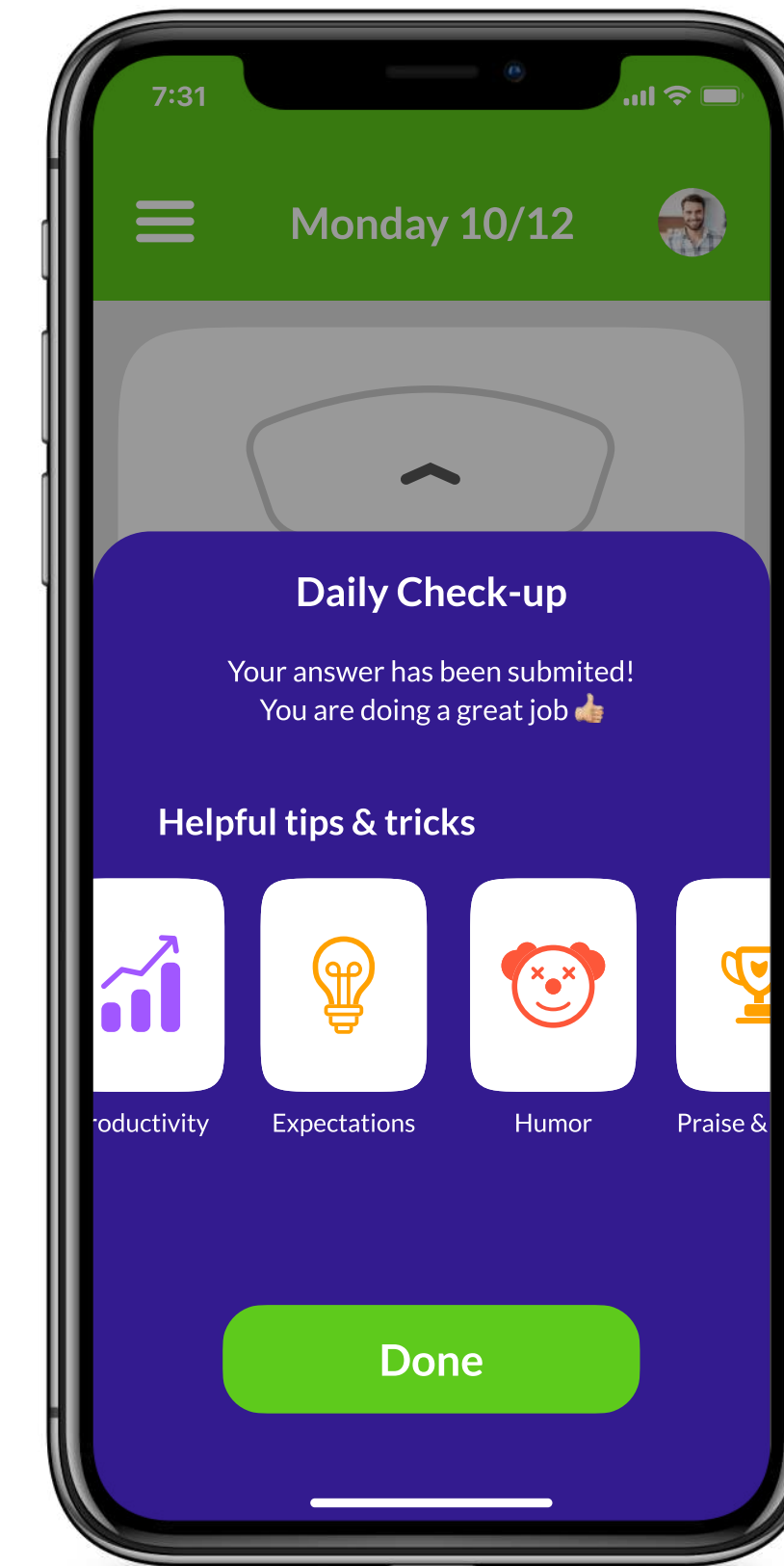
Progress Check (Parent Device)



Remote menu



Daily check-up



Resources

Reflection

Colors

I want to work on making the colors more **accessible** with enough color contrast. Especially on certain screens, the current colors can interfere with white text.

Progress

I want to create a page where parents can go back and see the past daily check-up results. With it, parents can take a **step back** and **reflect** on the whole situation.



Thank you