

# kith&kin

It takes a village.

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[Prototype Link](#)

## TARGETED AUDIENCE:

Our app is designed for **parents**, especially of **younger children**, who are looking to **build a community or find resources** for both their own health and their parenting journey. Since our interviewees reported experiencing **loneliness** and social **comparison** during parenting, we wanted to build a community for parents to learn from and support each other through this isolating journey.

## DESIGN TOOLS:

We used **Figma** for collaborative design and as a wireframing tool. **Material Design** icons and design philosophy were also used throughout the app. It was intuitive, collaborative, and easy to create identical components across multiple frames of the app. However, interaction complexity and sophistication isn't as robust as our intended finished design. For example, animations and transitions between frames at the moment do not exist in our prototype, and changes occur instantaneously.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS:

Click on elements on the screen to navigate to the intended page. If an element is non-clickable, a blue highlight will appear briefly on the screen over all of the interactable elements as a hint.

### Navigation bar:

- Home button links to the main home page
- Talking Bubble button links to messaging Chat page
- Three People button links to Events page
- Calendar button links to community Board page
- Two People and Plus button links to

### Home:

- Showcases upcoming events
- Access latest questions on community board posted
- “See my calendar” button allows you to access calendar

### Chat:

- Shows recent chat history with other users
- Allows you to search messages
- Can directly message a new user from this screen

### Events:

- On the top, the “For you” section shows recent events posted by your friends with descriptions and images
- After that, the “More” button shows general events posted by general users nearby who aren’t your friends
- User can add their own events on the plus button on top right
- Once they click on an event, it reveals event details, RSVP buttons and 3 dots to share the event page with others
- Once you RSVP, message confirming that you’re signed up for the event pops up and gives you option to see your calendar

### Board:

- Shows recent posts in the community

- Allows for the creation of your own post
- Can click on a post to see replies and the full post text
- Can sort question posts based on Newest, Posted by Friends, and Most Liked
- There are different color flares/ tags to categorize the type of question
- Clicking on a flare filters the page to only show question posts with that flare tag.

### Connect:

- Explore other users on the app
- Click on a user profile to see a more detailed biography
- Message or connect with a user to strike up a conversation
- Can filter user based on commonalities (radius, age, child stage, language)

### LIMITATIONS:

We were unable to show **true interaction** between different users as this is a prototype without real online servers. Further, **blocking and moderation features** can't be implemented for the same reasons.

Users are not able to **edit their profile** or change their settings, although buttons exist on the profile screen. Further, they are not able to filter from the parent dropdown or sort the community board by a different method.

They can't **use the search bar** as it requires the implementation of an API backend system.

We haven't yet implemented **login, logout** and account session management isn't implemented, and **verification status**.

### WIZARD OF OZ TECHNIQUES: WHY?

For the prototype, we added a lot of auto-magical features to make the demonstration more smooth. For example, a set of nearby users were given to the user to showcase the Connect feature. Similarly, the events and their details were curated.

These features were made using Wizard-of-Oz techniques as it wouldn't be feasible in this prototype to actually search nearby parents. This is both due to the fact that the prototype does not have a real backend to store and dynamically locate parent profiles and because there are too many possibilities of filter combinations or locations to showcase through this simpler prototype.

## HARD-CODED ITEMS: WHY?

The following features were hardcoded for the prototype:

- Choosing a parent to message
- Sending a message and its contents
- Choosing an event to RSVP
- The most recent events are static

As the point of the prototype is to illustrate the features and capabilities of our intended app, we found it unnecessary to provide more than one option for each of the core functionalities. For example, allowing for the user to pick a different parent in the prototype wouldn't provide any more insight into how the connect feature works, so we decided it was redundant.