

# TRENDS

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## AN ANALYSIS OF TRENDS SUPPORTING THE CASE FOR THE KIDIABAND

There are two major trends that contribute to the case for the Kidiaband: increased monitoring, especially medical self-monitoring, of children and the ubiquity of personal health devices, particularly wristbands.

Since baby monitors became popular in the 1980s with the advent of cheap short-range radio technology (“Baby Monitors”), there has been a trend toward increased monitoring of children, especially children with chronic conditions. In 2014, for instance, the Department of Justice set aside funding for GPS monitoring devices for autistic children after the disappearance of an autistic boy (Zook). There has also been a trend toward allowing children to self-monitor. For instance,

a 2013 study examining the efficacy of real-time monitoring and medication reminders for children with asthma concluded that RTMM (Real-Time Medical Monitoring) could help physicians gather data to better treat children, but also that RTMM “has the potential to support non-adherent patients in improving their asthma (self) management and in achieving . . . better quality of life” (Vasbinder 8). In 2011, the American Diabetes Association added a recommendation for diabetes self-management education for all diabetes patients, including children, to their Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes (Schreiner and Ponder). The Kidiaband is a tool for teaching children to begin to self manage.

There has also

been a recent trend toward personal monitoring devices in general, with wristbands being a preferred option. There is, of course, the popular Fitbit wristband, which tracks physical activity (“The Fitbit story”), and there are several less popular products that accomplish the same goal. There are also safety wristbands for the elderly that track their location and movement and send notifications should they fall or call for help (for instance, “Geoskeeper”).

All of them are descendents of the earliest monitoring wristbands, ankle monitoring bracelets for ex-offenders, which were first implemented in 1984 (“Electronic Monitor”), making personal health wristbands the culmination of a long-evolving trend.

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### THE SHORT VERSION:

- Two major trends contribute to the case for the Kidiaband
- The first is an increase in monitoring of children, particularly medical self-monitoring
- The second is the growing popularity of personal monitoring devices, particularly wristbands

