Accessing the POWER of Switch Activities for Students with High Sensory Needs

Anthon McLaws, OTR
Laurel Buell, OTR
Gayle Wiens, PT
Deanna Wagner, SLP
Key Learning Outcomes

• Participants will be able to list a variety of POWERful activities that may be used to motivate students to engage in appropriate motor behaviors and plan for more complex choice-making behaviors as they refine their ability to activate a single switch.

• Participants will find resources to explore switch interfaces that can be used by students to access powerful activities.

• Participants will brainstorm and assess activities for sensory-seeking students who appear to be primarily motivated by movement, visual, auditory, smell/taste and tactile (touch) experiences.
Introduction

• It is critical for learning that movement be self-initiated.
• We need to identify sensory needs and create POWERful activities.
• Children need a toy chest full of activities.
• Many students are sensory seekers with high sensory thresholds.
• Evaluation tools can ID sensory profiles
How many toys should a child have?

Messy House Edition
MyLifeandKids.com

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Sensory Processing Measure (SPM)

L. Diane Parham, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Cheryl Ecker, MA, OTR/L, et al.

Sensory Profile – Winnie Dunn, PhD, OTR

Motivation Assessment Scale - Michael Delaney /Mark Durand, PhD

http://www.ocde.us/PBIS/Documents/Motivational%20Assessment%20Scale.pdf
Potential Reinforcer Profile –
Amy McGinnis, M.S., OTR

Every Move Counts, Clicks & Chats

Korsten, Foss & Berry

http://www.everymovecounts.net
Switches & Interfaces
Switch Interfaces

• Can have built-in switches or sockets for 3.5mm sockets for wired switches.
• Long operating range.
• Rechargeable lithium-ion battery via supplied USB lead.
• Built-in display for easy programming.
• Programmable functions include many mouse/keyboard commands as well as full music controls.
Connecting Switches

**APPlicator**
Bluetooth Switch Interface for iDevices

**Blue2 Bluetooth Switch**
Providing switch access to iOS devices

**iSwitch**
Switch Access for iDevices

**J-Pad**
A unique, highly intuitive joystick

**Pretorian USB Switch**
A low profile 75mm switch with a...

**SimplyWorks For iPad**
Wireless iPad and iPad mini access
Good tech support from this company! A great line of products that can connect via Bluetooth; either to a computer or iPad
environmental control device (ECU) remotes

- The FreeHand is used in conjunction with an X-10 transceiver module.
- www.adaptivation.com
- Adapt your own x-10 remotes (Radio Shack)
- Adapt Zenith Outdoor Remote (home depot)
GoTalk Now

- Communication app that provides options for auditory prompts
- Can be used with scanning (1 or 2 switches)
- Can be used with clients with low vision, with auditory prompt helping identify desired message
- Can use synthesized or recorded speech
- Can play music from iTunes or video from YouTube
Repeating lines from movies, over and over....
Music & Sound Effects

- Free Sound Effects and Royalty Free Sound Effects (for download)

- Rad Sounds (computer and iPad options)
  [www.rjcooper.com](www.rjcooper.com)

- Switch-Accessible Music website
CD BoomBox

www.enablingdevices.com

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Mama Hen

• This after-Easter special was a great find--Hallmark Store.
• The activation site was on her wing.
• The song she sings is hilarious!
• The eggs that come with this chicken don't open, but you can substitute others to hide things inside.
Adapted Leaf Blower

- Adapt a using flag pole holder
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8CQpX1X1rk
- Play air hockey!
- https://youtu.be/g1QJGHnX-BY?list=PLD5811D901A21D98C
Activities for Vestibular Input

Photo by Southpaw Enterprises
Swing or Spin

- Lower swing to allow the child to move themselves
- Use a BIGmack or Step-by-Step for switch-adapted interactions to ask for help.
- Slow spin/swing for hypervestibular child
- Faster to meet needs for hypovestibular

Photo by Southpaw Enterprises
Motorized Movements

• Look for DIY videos on YouTube
  – Motorized Swing Mount for Digital TV
  – Motorized Rotary Table
  – Motorized Lazy Susan

• If it has a way to turn it on/off, we can switch-adapt it.
Spinning/Rotating Toys
Switch or Joystick Operated Scooter
Different position, different input
Spinning provides good vestibular input
Rock Around from TFH


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Power Chair Fun
Activities for Visual Stimuli
10 Light Toys under $10

http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/top-10-light-toys
Glow Sticks and Movement

How To Make a $50 Pottery Wheel (HowToLou.com)
Make your own glowing Lava Lamp Bags


- Use glow-in-the-dark paint and charge with a switch-adapted light source before play.
- Use fluorescent paint and switch-adapt your blacklight for play now.
Fisher-Price Discover 'n Grow
Twinkling Lights Projector Mobile

- Single button operation
- Remote Control with a big button also re-starts it.
EL Wire

- You can order from many places, including Amazon
- Switch-Adapt the remote
- Multiple color options
- Create fun shapes or outlines!

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HelpKidzLearn.com

- Subscription website
- Pictured is the Custard Splodger activity
- Many activities have high contrast for low vision (black backgrounds)
- Most activities have settings for slow, medium or fast movements
PowerPoint

- Switch-Adapted with arrows or space bar
- Use templates
- Add slide animations or movements

Activities for Smell/Taste

(and some thoughts about social needs)
Daily Activities

• Bathroom stuff
  – Toothpaste, lotion, and a fart machine?

• Cooking
  – Use aromatic ingredients
  – Use strong flavors
  – Use bright colors
  – Use adapted tools
Toothbrushing
Heated Lotion Dispenser
Aromatherapy Fan
Remote Control Farts

- www.amazon.com
- T.J. Wiseman Remote Controlled Fart Machine
- Radio Control Whoopee Cushion
- Also available as an app!
Pouring Cup –
www.enablingdevices.com
Adapted Cooking Tools

Ablenet PowerLink

Wireless Switches
Commercial Tools

- Mixers (hand/stand/emulsifying)
- Food Processors (including mini sizes)
- Blenders/ juicers
- Ice shaver
- Coffee grinder
- Spice mill
- WaterPik
Avoid the Flyswatter!

• 101 Ideas for using a BIGmack

• 101 Ways to use a Step-by-Step
Switch Progression

• Moving into using scanning for making choices
• Stages© Framework – Madeline Pugliese
  – http://apps4stages.wikispaces.com
• Switch Progression Road Map – Inclusive TLC
  – www.helpkidslearn.com

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Activities for Tactile Stimuli
Things that shake, wiggle, & squirt

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Other POWERful & Fun Toys
Other POWERful & Fun Toys
How do I select a toy to adapt?

Look on LiveBinders

Adapted Toys 101
How To Select a Toy for Adapting

The following is a guide for selecting toys for adapting.

**Remote Control Toys:** Most of the remote control toys available are radio control. Occasionally there are Infrared Toys. One thing I like about infrared is that it can be paired to many communication devices—but not iPads.

The rule to remember about remote control toys is that the controls need to be simple, like this one.

The controls go forward and backwards on one side and left and right on the other side.

This Disney toy is also a simple remote control. It basically does two things: forward and backwards. I like this toy because it can be placed on a large tray or pan to keep it within a certain boundary.

Here are another few examples of simple remote controls.

Please note that there are many remote controls that are very complicated to adapt. Some remotes have a graded controller. For example, move it slightly up and the toy moves slowly forward; move it all the way up and it goes fast. Here are a few of these types of remotes:

When a box says RC it means radio control; Inferred is clearly marked; blue tooth etc.
What toys are best to adapt?

- Simple Remote Controls
- Music & Sound Toys
- On/Off Toys
Conclusions

• ID sensory needs
• Create multiple opportunities for engagement
• Use switch interfaces
• Create a toybox