

50 Simple Switch or Low Tech Ideas!

1. Place a switch that plays music inside a shape sorter to activate when the shapes are inserted.
2. Encourage the child to make a walking switch toy, such as the pig or dinosaur knock over blocks or bowling pins. Stage a race with two children operating two walking switch toys. Attach a sight word, picture, or number to the switch toy on a notecard and "deliver" to the teacher.
3. Try out the new color changing mood lamps,
4. Bubbles: Use an electronic fan with a Powerlink connect electronic bubble blower with a switch or character switch operated blowers
5. Place bump and go switch toys within confined areas, such as a toy pen, hula hoop, box lid
6. Don't forget to consider use of infrared toys with use of augmentative communication devices.
7. Have a friend hold a hair dryer while the child operates a hair or nail dryer to dry doll hair, fingernail polish, or art projects using a Powerlink.
8. Try an adapted bingo, catchphrase, or dice roller for playing games for all ages
9. Consider the Bluetooth options for toys
10. Encourage the child to have the switch toy walk to specific classmates or stop and go upon command.
11. Cut a door out of a box and have the child walk the switch pig or cow into "Old MacDonald's Farm" or a doghouse, etc.
12. Use a water pic to play with water or to paint with diluted paper on paper placed flat on the floor or upright at an angle with a Powerlink.
13. Encourage the child to operate a massage pad or flexible wand for himself or a family member.
14. In a quiet area, sensory area, or tent, place a variety of the light and music switch items or a switch adapted vibrating tube or pillows. Facilitate the child's ability to turn on lights in the room, holiday lights, lamps in a classroom tent, lava lamps, light sculptures, black light
15. Feed classroom pets, water plants, and assist in cooking activities using the pouring switch
16. Classroom small kitchen appliances can be a great source of fun, participation, using the Powerlink with hot air popcorn poppers, shake machine, toaster oven, sandwich machine, and blenders.
17. Remember to use the classroom tape recorder or boom box with switches for independent music play. Consider adding a sound and sensor bar.
18. Read books using low tech talking AAC switches to speak the repetitive lines of the book.

19. Partial participation activities with peers can be fun in the class with one child pouring ingredients and the other operating the Spin Art or blender for example. Team up those with physical limitations with those without when using a Lite Brite, for example.
20. Special switch-operated instant cameras are commercially available and may be very motivating for children to print pictures of peers for the classroom or for communication boards.
21. Try one of the dual purpose light and sound machines iPod and MP3 compatible for music as well.
22. Don't forget to explore whether a switch latch is needed for battery-operated toys and activities as this increases the child's control over the activity if he has mastered cause and effect. It is very difficult for many of our student's to maintain their pressure on a switch surface. The electronic activities can be latched through the use of the Powerlink.
23. Consider the coloring and music products for early learners, such as from Crayola's Color Me a Song.
24. Fans can be made a little more fun by attaching streamers or tying a cloth with various scents to the fan-or commercially available aroma battery-operated fan -or use of aromatherapy machines as well.
25. Try placing walking switch toys inside the sensory tables filled with macaroni /beans
26. There are a variety of craft, game and toy machines that could be operated with a Powerlink: Easy Bake Oven, rock tumblers, Elephant Butterfly game, Snow Cone Machine, Simon game, etc.
27. Consider the realm of voice activated toys which can be activated with any sound or by pressing a simple talking device: water gun, truck, trains. Fun with Siri??
28. Have the child with the disability be in charge of the music for musical chairs.
29. During quiet time or in the relaxing tents, have the child operate an adapted flashlight for flashlight games. This can be done cooperatively as well with one child moving the light and the other child operating the battery-operated flashlight.
30. Adapt an animated puppet by placing a puppet on a spinning lollipop from the drugstore.
31. Don't forget the battery operated switch accessible scissors for crafts.
32. Classroom jobs/responsibilities: operating electronic pencil sharpener, electronic stapler, turning lamps on and off, etc.
33. All-Turn-It Spinners for choosing centers, identifying peers, choosing class chores, choosing songs or books, playing games, dice drawing/coloring games, or general communicating. These are random choices with the student's names drawn on the overlay. This can also be done with randomizer on devices and smart notebook.
34. Don't forget that you can plug in switch toys into low tech AAC voice output devices like Big Macs from AbleNet. This way the child can "Say and Play", such as operating a switch accessible toy while also "singing" or saying phrases, such as "My turn" or making animal noises with plush switch toys, etc.
35. Attach an electric blower to a Powerlink to inflate balls, holiday decorations, mattresses, therapy balls, etc.
36. Let the child be the life of the party by operating the fog machine, blacklight, disco lights, air hockey table, karaoke machine, and CD player with a Powerlink. How about a new switch fart machine?

37. Tag team with building sets such as the switch adapted marble maze building set
38. Developmental skills: Encourage the child's object permanence by having the child move the switch toy behind a barrier or play tunnel. Help the child to roll by placing a notebook or flat switch on the floor connected to boom box or other favorite switch toy.
39. Remember the cheapest way to get adapted switch toys if you are not handy and can adapt your own, is to purchase battery operated toys cheaply (garage sales, Ebay had 43 choices on one day recently) and add a battery interrupter -Truly amazing that Amazon is selling 143 switch adapted toys!
40. Switch accessible apps are becoming more available for IOS devices that are not augmentative communication apps. Inclusive Technology has several. Also consider these very easy to operate "almost" switch accessible apps: PictureBuild, Magic Fingers, Peek a Zoo (series), and Balls.
41. Book adaptations for Physical Limitations: build up pages by lamination, cut books and place pages into plastic page protectors and put in binder or use D-rings or string to bind, attach binder clips to pages, Velcro circles, felt circles or foam, hot glue 'blobs', hair barrettes (clips), adhesive carpet backing, cross-stitch mounting foam, weather stripping, furniture felt leg protectors, buy two copies of book and cut each out/mount on cardboard/laminate/ place in binder, attach ice cream sticks to pages to help turn, notebook dividers (large), turn pages using unsharpened pencils held with the eraser down to turn the pages, use of book holders and stands, electronic page turners
42. Turn on/off a handheld massager to give massages or to shake a box filled with paint covered marbles
43. Stir a drink
44. Spray a mix of water and food coloring over a stencil to paint
45. Use a juicer with a switch to make juice
46. Use a food processor to mix up the ingredients to make recycled paper, use your fans to dry
47. Turn on the black lights with all of your glow in the dark stuff around, make your own planetarium
48. Plug in one red light and one green light - now the switch user runs gym class
49. Change the TV channels
50. Tell jokes