

Alternative Access: Switch-adapted toys



What is it?

Switch adapted toys are toys that have been modified to be activated by assistive technology switches, making them accessible to individuals with disabilities. These toys typically have a standard switch input jack or connector, allowing users to connect their switches and activate the toy's features with the press or activation of the switch.

Why use it?

Switch-adapted toys provide individuals with disabilities tailored play experiences that offer sensory stimulation, social interaction, and developmental benefits. By enabling play alongside peers, these toys foster inclusion and social engagement. They stimulate senses with lights, sounds, and movement, supporting those with sensory processing disorders or limited mobility. Additionally, they help develop motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and cause-and-effect understanding, while promoting independence in play. As communication tools, they enable interaction and expression for those with communication impairments. Ultimately, switch-adapted toys enhance enjoyment and contribute to the overall well-being and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

How to use it?

First, select a toy that matches the individual's interests and abilities, considering the type of switch needed and the toy's features, like lights or sounds. Next, connect the switch to the toy's input jack, ensuring a secure and accessible connection. Position the toy within reach and in the individual's line of sight, taking mobility needs into account. Finally, encourage the individual to activate the toy by pressing their switch, which may trigger lights, sounds, or movement.

Examples we use in Bellevue School District

- Switch activated spin art
- Mini wacky waving inflatable tube guy
- Baby Einstein take along tunes
- Switch adapted fan

