# Little SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

## Spiky Tactile Ball

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| **Description:** | **Image:** |
| Blue colored five inch textured ball made of PVC weighs 3 oz.  [Purchasing Information](https://funandfunction.com/spiky-tactile-balls.html) | Blue silicone ball texture with rounded spikes. |

**Who Might Benefit?**

For those who need support with self-regulation, sensory input, or focus through fidgeting, or seeking tactile engagement to calm themselves or maintain attention.

**Why Use?**

Self-regulation, quiet self-calming activities, tactile exploration of the spiky ball, improved eye-hand coordination, and focused fidgeting.

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| Instructions for Use: | Adaptation Ideas: |
| **Environmental Considerations**   * Use in all settings and in group and one-on-one activities.   **Positioning**   * Use in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.   **Basic Play/Use**   * Open ended exploration (ex. touch, roll, squeeze).   **Play/Use with Others**   * Take turns catching, playing basketball, or bowling. | **Stabilize It**   * Construct a handle or Velcro to surface   **Contain It**   * Place ball in open container or sensory bin.   **Add Sensory Cues**   * Store in sensory tub with other items.   **Communication Supports**   * Visual supports like communication cards and social narratives can help a child communicate their feelings.   **Alternative Uses**   * Use like a talking stick during circle or sharing time. * Play hot potato.   **DIY Alternatives**   * Inexpensive textured ball from discount or pet store. * Bean bags or squeeze balls with various textures. |

### Words to Encourage Play/Use

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| **Touch**  A child with their hand on the shoulder of another child. | **Toss**A stick figure tossing a red ball | **Roll**A person with brown hair and brown pants rolling a black ball away. |
| **Push**Child pushing rock away. | **In**A black arrow pointing to a circle inside a box. | **OutA black and white image of a black arrow pointing to a black circle outside of a box.** |
| **CatchA girl with her arms ready to catch a red ball moving toward her.** | **QuietPerson with index finger in front of lips saying “Shh”.** | **Calm**  **A child in a blue shirt comforting another child in a green shirt who is smiling.** |

\*”Adaptations” adapted from: Haugen’s Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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