# 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.
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### 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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