SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Adapted Musical Cymbal

(Adapted Music Kit 2 – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
The Adapted Musical Cymbal is a musical instrument adapted for switch users. Children can join in music time or circle time by simply pressing a switch to activate the cymbal. The drumstick strikes the cymbal and creates a percussive sound. It is small and fits easily on a wheelchair tray. The device is 10"L x 8" W x 4" H and weighs 2 lbs. Four AA batteries are required.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Have motor limitations and may find it difficult to engage in typical musical instrument play.
- Need multi-sensory opportunities to engage in play due to limited attending or engagement skills.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity for children to…

- develop music appreciation.
- engage in sensory exploration.
- enhance the development of auditory skills.
- engage in multi-sensory cause & effect activities.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • The cymbal is noisy and has flashing lights, so it may not be suitable for quiet classroom environments. **Positioning** • The cymbal is typically used on a flat surface while the child is seated either at a table, on the floor, or in a wheelchair with a tray.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Velcro • Dycem **Build It Up** • TBD **Stabilize It** • The cymbal could be stabilized by adding Velcro to the bottom of the device and to the table surface, or using non-skid

Alternate Positioning

- The child may be able to use the cymbal in various other positions, such as lying on their belly (prone), side-lying, kneeling, standing, etc. However, it needs to remain on a flat horizontal surface to work properly.

Basic Play/Use

- The cymbal requires 4 AA Alkaline batteries. Do not use rechargeable batteries or any other type of batteries because they supply lower voltage, and the unit will not perform properly.
- Plug in a switch to the units switch port.
- Turn the On / Off switch to On.
- Press the switch and the cymbal will activate.

Extended Play/Use

- Can be used in a music class as a part of a percussion section or as an additional instrument in a band.
- Can be used as a sound effect for a story in a book or a play.

Play/Use with Others

- The cymbal is intended to be used by one student; however, it could be used in a turn taking activity among two or more students.
- The cymbal could also be used as one of several musical instruments played by children in a small band.

matting such as Dycem so it doesn't scoot away from the user.

Contain It

- The cymbal could be positioned in a box or tray to help contain it from moving.

Add Sensory Cues

- The switch attached to the device could be enhanced with different textures, color caps, or picture symbols/words to indicate the function of the device.

Communication Support

- A communication board could be developed to support the function of cymbal play. Vocabulary may include: play, more, music, help, stop, too loud, louder, too soft, quiet, etc.

Additional Considerations:

- This device is not recommended for seizure-prone individuals due to the flashing lights.
- Only use Alkaline batteries. Do not use rechargeable batteries or any other type of batteries, because they supply lower voltage and the unit will not perform properly.
- Do not submerge the device in water as it will damage the electrical components.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners on the device.

Additional Resources:

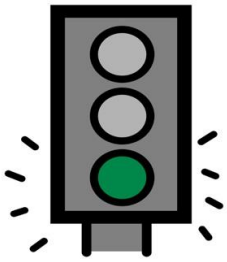
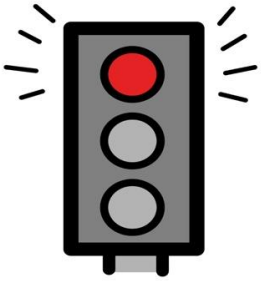
- Special Education Resources: Adapting Musical Instruments for Access to All is a YouTube video that highlights how to adapt standard classroom musical instruments for all children. It

also contains ideas for how musical instruments can be used for various purposes other than creating music (e.g., gross motor and fine motor skill development).

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- CD: Artistic Engagement and Expression: Expresses self creatively through music and dance. (1.b.).
- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops the ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Go 	Stop 
Play 	On 	Off 

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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