SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Big Water Toy

(Multisensory Switch Toy Kit 1 – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
Toys activated by switches are often used with children who lack the motor strength, endurance, or control to play with a toy in the usual way. The switch provides a way for the child to push or push and hold a button to activate the toy to do a specific function. This toy offers the opportunity for a child to engage in water play. The tray is filled with water and when the switch is pressed the water squirts out of the toy's removable hose. The hose can be attached to a pail or sand toy and can also be used to water plants, sail toy boats, or have a toy car wash! The toy measures 19 x 10-1/2 x 10 inches.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Need further practice and support of fine motor and eye hand coordination skills.
- Who need adapted access to typical early childhood activities (water tables, tactile play, etc.)
- Need an opportunity to learn about and experiment with simple cause and effect activities.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Refine eye hand coordination for reaching, targeting, pressing, and releasing.
- Engage in water play activities.
- Understand simple cause and effect.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used indoors or outdoors, however it is likely water will go beyond the toy during play so if used indoors it may be helpful to cover floors or the tabletop under the toy with a plastic tablecloth or other water-resistant material.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Velcro **Stabilize It** • Make sure the child is successfully seated in a chair with both feet on the floor and encourage the child to rest their elbow or

Positioning

- This toy needs to be positioned on a flat horizontal surface such as on a tabletop or on the floor with the child seated in a chair, the floor, or standing. Position the toy so it is easily seen by the child and then position the switch, so it is in easy reach of the child.

Alternate Positioning

- If the toy is positioned on the floor, it would be possible for children to interact with the toy and switch to lying on their belly or side-lying positions too.

Basic Play/Use

- The toy should be positioned in the visual field of the child. Put water in the blue tray at the base of the toy. A switch should then be plugged into the switch port. Be sure to push the plug fully into the port until it snaps. Encourage the child to press the attached switch so the water from the base of the toy is pumped through the hose and deposited into the top funnel of the provided toy. The water then cascades through the various parts of the toy spinning some parts and dumping water from others to finally return to the blue water tray at the base of the toy. This is a simple cause and effect use of the toy.

Extended Play/Use

- With the hose detached from the top funnel, the hose could be used to water plants when the switch is depressed.
- Floating toys could be added to the blue water tray base and the water coming from the hose could be used to move the floating toys around in the tray.
- Read the book Mrs Wishy Washy and encourage the child to activate the switch to pump the water from the hose to wash small plastic animals (cows, pigs, chickens) using the hose in a small wash tub or plastic shoe forearm on the table to help stabilize their body. Position the water tray so it is easily seen by the child and then position the switch within easy reach of the child, so they can push the switch to activate the toy.
- The base of the toy and switch could be placed on Dycem or velcroed to a table or the carpet on the floor, so it doesn't move away from the child.

Add Sensory Cues

- Sensory cues could be added to the switch such as puffy stickers, puffy paints, different textures. The color of the switch could also be changed by providing an overlay for the switch. A picture symbol could be added to the switch to indicate that pushing the switch activates a specific water activity (water flowers, wash cars, etc.)

Communication Support

- Provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. more, stop, help, on, off, start, water, plants, wash, cars, water toy, etc.) for the child to request assistance in changing the specific water activities.

Alternative Uses

- Different types of switches could be trialed if the included switch is not usable by the child. The OCALI lending library has several kits with multiple types of switches that can be trialed.

DIY Alternatives

- A switch adapted Water Pik can be used for water play or watering plants. Needed for this activity is an electric WaterPik, a switch, and a Powerlink 4 to act as a switch interface to plug in both the WaterPik and the switch so they can communicate with each other. A switch and Powerlink 4 can be requested from the OCALI lending library. You will need to provide the

box (hose could be attached to the plastic box with Velcro).
- Extend the Mrs. Wishy Washy activity to include an additional sensory activity of making mud out of chocolate pudding to roll the animals in and then wash the "mud" off with the water hose.
- Take photos of the 3 toys in the Multisensory Switch Toy Kit 1 and print the photos. Create a foam board choice board and encourage the child to select which toy they would like to play with. When the child selects honor their choice by providing the selected toy for play. Begin by providing 2 choices adding additional choices as the child tolerates.

Play/Use with Others

- Children could take turns pushing the switch for simple cause and effect activities as mentioned above.
- With the hose detached from the top funnel and the provided water toy removed, cars could be placed in a clear plastic shoe box to create a car wash. When the switch is activated by one child, another child could direct the hose at the cars.

WaterPik. This video by Ablenet provides a nice overview of how the PowerLink can be used to make electrical appliances switch accessible.
- Create a Choice Board - The OCALI Autism Center Grab and Go Resource Gallery of Interventions has a number of choice board templates and examples that could be used to create the choice boards indicated above in the Extended Play/Use section. Additionally, there are a number of examples of different ways choice boards can be effectively displayed.

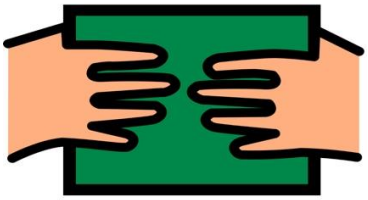
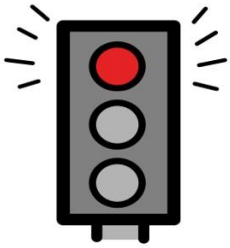
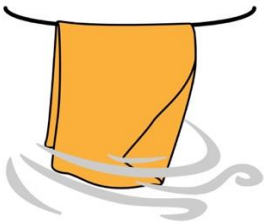
Additional Considerations:

- 4 D batteries are required for the toy to operate.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Press 	Hold 
Stop 	Button/Switch 	On 
Off 	Wet 	Dry 
Water 		

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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