Busy Ball Popper

(Multisensory Switch Toy Kit 2 - 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 to activate the toy to do a specific function. This toy offers the opportunity for a child to engage in ball play. The Busy Ball Popper is activated by pressing the button on the toy or an attached external switch. Five colorful balls pop up and then roll down the track. Sound effects and songs also play, adding to the sensory experience. The toy runs for approximately 20 seconds with each activation and has an on/off switch to save battery life. A clear dome keeps the balls in action. The Busy Ball Popper is: 13"L x 5¾"W x 18"H and weighs: 3½ lbs.	 Purchasing Information Video of standard Playskool Busy Ball Popper User Manual

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Children who need further practice and support of fine motor and eye hand coordination skills.
- Need a highly engaging activity to attend, focus, and participate in the activity.
- 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.
- Practice visual attending skills and attention to task with an engaging activity.
- Understand simple cause and effect.

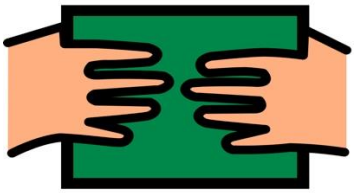
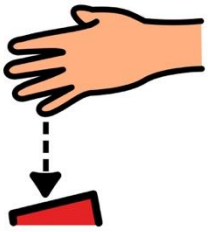
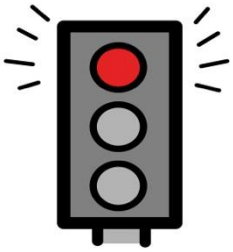
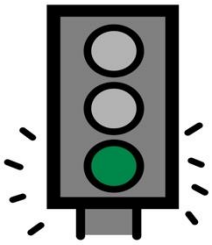
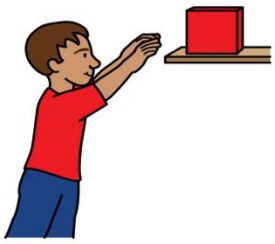
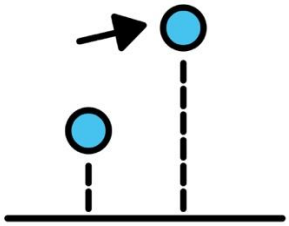
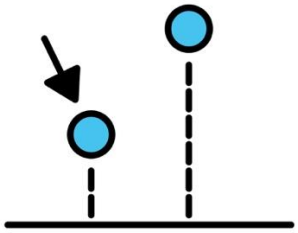
Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used in any environment but may not be suitable for quiet environments due to the sound effects and music that occurs when the toy is activated. Positioning • This toy needs to be positioned on a flat horizontal surface such as on a tabletop or on the floor with the child seated in a chair, on 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 and sight of the child. Alternate Positioning • If the toy is positioned on the floor, it would be possible for the child to interact with the toy and switch into lying on their belly or side lying positions too. Basic Play/Use • The switch should be plugged firmly into the switch port on the base of the toy. Encourage the child to press the attached switch so the Busy Ball Popper is turned on. The Popper will run for approximately 20 seconds and then will turn off automatically. Pressing the switch again will activate the ball popper for another 20 seconds. Be sure the child is positioned close enough to the Ball Popper to be able to see and hear the activity. This is a simple cause and effect use of the toy. Extended Play/Use • Name the color of the balls that pop up at the top for the child. • Ask the child to name the color of the balls that pop up at the top. • Take photos of the 4 toys in the Multisensory Switch Toy Kit 2 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	Optional Additional Materials/Supplies • Dycem • Velcro Stabilize It • 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. Simplify It • The number of balls used in the Popper could be reduced if needed to help a child who has difficulty visually sustaining attention among multiple popping balls. • Additional balls could be added gradually as tolerated by 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. A picture symbol could be added to the switch to indicate that pushing the switch activates the Busy Ball Popper activity. Communication Support • Provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. more, go, help, on, one, red, blue, yellow, green, push, pop, ball, etc.) for the child to engage with the Busy Ball Popper activity. 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. • The balls in the Popper could be used for placing the balls into a container or through a tube to practice early grasp and release. • To encourage more targeted grasp and release activities a lid with a circle cut out

makes a selection 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 to start the Ball Popper.	the size of the balls could be placed on a container and the child could be asked to pick up, reach and push the balls through the cut out. **DIY Alternatives** • To switch adapt a commercially available standard Playskool Busy Ball Popper • It may be possible to use a battery interrupter to quickly switch adapt a standard battery-operated toy that does not have a switch port but has a specific on/off function. The Learn how to adapt a toy video describes how to make this adaption. (NOTE: the battery interrupter needed is specific to the size of the battery in the device).

Additional Considerations:

- 4 D Alkaline batteries are needed as well as a switch to activate the toy.
- The Busy Ball Popper has sounds and music so some children with sensory sensitivities may not be able to tolerate the sound. Noise cancelling headphones could be used by the child to help reduce the noise if needed and can be obtained from the OCALI lending library in the Sensory Regulation Kit.

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Press 	Hold 
Release 	Stop 	Go 
Button/Switch 	On 	Off 
Reach 	Up 	Down 
High 	Low 	

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo. PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.