SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Domino Train

(Moving Toy Switch Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
The switch adapted Domino Train has lights, music and movement. It's been adapted to accept a standard 3.5mm external switch. The train can be used with or without an external switch. Once the domino tray has been loaded with dominos, press & hold the switch or push the button located on the toy to start the train to move forward and lay down dominos. Release the switch to stop the train. It can be set to go in circles or a straight line by turning the smokestack. Train sounds play as the train moves along. The kit includes the switch adapted train, domino tray, and dominos. Train measures approximately 6.3" x 4.2" The toy requires 2 AA batteries.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Need high engagement activities to help with sustained attention to task. For some children train play may be highly motivating because it is a special interest.
- Benefit from simple cause and effect activities in which the child does something (pushes a switch) and the toy instantly moves.
- Have fine or gross motor challenges and are unable to engage in typical pretend play activities. They may have difficulty getting down on the floor, moving on the floor, reaching, grasping, and/or manipulating typical toys for pretend play.
- Those who are not able or are not yet ready for the fine motor or cognitive skills needed to directionally move a toy using a joystick but can depress and release a switch to stop and start a toy.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Engage in remote control toy play.
- Participate in visual tracking activities.
- Engage in cause-and-effect play.
- Develop an understanding of directionality (besides, in front, behind etc.).

- Participate in an engaging activity with multi-sensory supports (auditory, visual, etc.).
- Practice starting and stopping engagement with a potentially high interest toy.
- Engage in a cooperative activity.
- Engage in color and counting practice.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • The train works best on a hard, smooth surface. For the dominos to be set upright from the train it cannot be used on carpet or soft surfaces. • A space adequate for the train to move for at least a short distance without other children becoming entangled in the attached switch cable. • May not be suitable for quiet environments due to the train sounds when the toy is on and the sound of the dropping dominos. **Positioning** • Children would typically play with a moving toy train on the floor moving into and out of a variety of positions while playing. Make sure the child can see the train and can freely move into and out of a variety of positions (e.g. on belly, side lying, sitting, kneeling, crawling, etc.) while playing with the toy if able. **Alternate Positioning** • Place the train on a table or similar surface so the user can see and hear the vehicle at eye level. Be careful the train does not fall off the table (see containment options below if you need the train at eye-level). **Basic Play/Use** • Place the batteries in the battery compartment of the train. • Plug in the enclosed switch to the switch port on the train • Load the dominoes into the domino tray and place the tray in the train. • Press and hold the switch to start the train. • Release the switch to stop the train.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Velcro **Stabilize It** • The switch can be secured to the table with Dycem, other non-skid material or Velcro if needed • The switch could also be secured with a switch mount that attaches to a table or wheelchair tray. Switch Mounting Systems can be borrowed from the OCALI lending library. **Contain it** • Use a large tray with sides secured to the table with non-skid material, hula hoop covered with pool noodles and secured to the table, or box with the sides cut down and with non-skid material or secured to the table so the child can see into the box to contain the train if placed on a tabletop surface or even on the floor. **Add Sensory Cues** • The switch face could be enhanced with puffy paints, stick on puffy stickers, or textured fabric. Unfortunately, the sounds from train cannot be toggled off. **Communication Support** • Visual supports (non-transient cues) such as directionality cards (stop, go, etc.) can be used to pair with verbal labels (transient cues) provided to the child to help them learn about the way things and people move in space.

- The direction of the train can be changed from moving forward in a straight line to moving in circles by twisting the train smokestack.
- The train can also be activated without the switch by pushing the button on the train.

Extended Play/Use

- Teach special concepts like go/stop, straight/circle, empty/full.
- Ask the child to name the color of the domino the train sets out on the table/floor.
- Ask the child to stop the train when the next blue domino is layered down on the floor.
- Ask the child to count the dominoes as they are deposited on the table/floor.
- Ask the child to deposit a predetermined number of dominoes and then stop the train (put down 5 dominoes).
- If the train is used on a table and within arm's reach of the child using the switch, once the dominoes are set up encourage reaching to knock the dominos over.

Play/Use with Others

- This toy requires assistance by a peer or adult to load the dominos into the tray thus making it easy to make this a cooperative play activity between two children.
- Additionally, children can take turns operating the train, choosing the direction of the train (straight or circles) and knocking down the dominoes.

Additional Considerations:

- CHOKING HAZARD - This toy is not suitable for ages under 3 years. It contains small parts.
- This toy makes train sounds and noise as the dominos are laid down, so it is best for individuals that are not sound sensitive.

Additional Resources

OCALI Grab and Go Gallery of Resources: Turn Taking

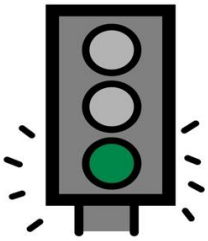
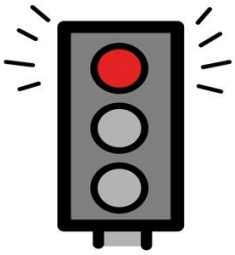
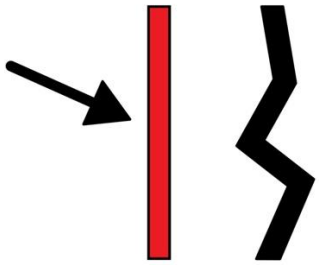
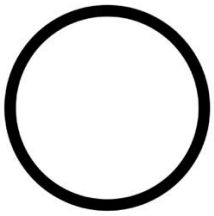
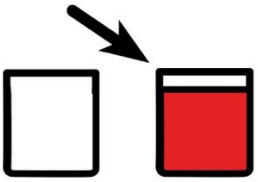
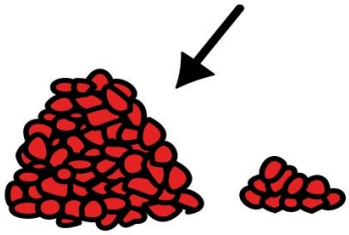
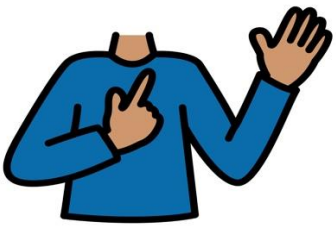
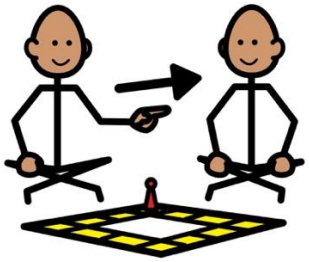
OCALI Grab and Go Gallery of Resources: What to Do Cards

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.)
- MA: Geometry: Develops understanding of spatial relationships (4.b.)

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Consider adding color words (yellow, blue, green, orange, etc.) and counting words (1, 2, 3, 4, 5,)

Go 	Stop 	Straight 
Circle 	Empty 	Full 
More 	My turn 	Your turn 

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.