SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Lil Kitty

(Moving Toy Switch Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
Lil Kitty is a straight-line switch activated toy. When the included switch is attached to Lil Kitty and pressed, the kitty walks, nods his head, wags his tail, pounces and meows. The toy is 6"L x 3"W x 6" and weighs ¾ lbs. 2 AA Batteries are needed (alkaline batteries recommended, rechargeable batteries are NOT recommended.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video Users Manual

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Need high engagement activities to help with sustained attention to task. For some children stuffed animal 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 pretend play with stuffed animals.
- Participate in visual tracking activities.
- Engage in cause-and-effect play.
- Participate in an engaging activity with multi-sensory supports (animal sound, visual, etc.).
- Engage in gross motor skills of crawling.
- Practice starting and stopping engagement with a potentially high interest toy.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • A space adequate for the kitty to walk for at least a short distance without other children becoming entangled in the attach switch cable will be needed. • Initially the space should be relatively flat and smooth for the most success in walking the kitty. • May not be suitable for quiet environments due to meowing sounds of the kitty. Positioning • Children would typically play with a moving stuffed animal on the floor moving into and out of a variety of positions while playing. Make sure the child can see the kitty and can freely move into and out of a variety of positions (e.g. on tummy, sidelying, sitting, kneeling, crawling, etc.) while playing with the toy if able. Alternate Positioning • Place the kitty on a table or similar surface so the user can see and hear the kitty at eye level. Be careful kitty does not fall off the table (see containment options below if you need the kitty at eye-level). Basic Play/Use • Turn Lil Kitty upside down to reveal the battery compartment. On the upper left side above the cover is a small push button to release the battery cover to slide down and then open. Install 2 AA batteries. Replace the battery compartment cover and secure it. • Please Note: The ON/OFF switch is locked in place due to switch adaption. Do not try to force it to the OFF position for any reason as doing so will break the switch adaption. PLEASE NOTE: This toy will only work using an external switch. • Connect Lil Kitty to the included switch via the jack located at the end of the Lil Kitty's	Optional Additional Materials/Supplies • Foam Board • Velcro • Dycem • Packing Tape 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 kitty 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 kitty (meowing) 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. Alternative Uses • Attach marker to kitty with tape or Velcro and place the kitty on a large sheet of paper for a freeform drawing activity.

cord. Make sure to plug your switch all the way in. There should be no gaps. • Press the attached switch and Lil Kitty will walk, nod his head, wag his tail, pounce, and meow. • Lil Kitty will remain on while the switch is pressed. Once the switch is released, Lil Kitty will turn off. Extended Play/Use • Encourage the child to activate Lil Kitty to experiment with cause and effect (stopping and starting) and moving their body along with the kitty if possible. • Encourage independent stuffed animal pretend play with Lil Kitty (e.g. move kitty to his food bowl to eat, take kitty to his blanket to take a nap, move kitty to a ball of yarn or another cat toy). • Practice animal sounds and animal identification with various stuffed animals including Lil Kitty. • Use as a literacy activity prop for the book Have You Seen My Cat by Eric Carle. Laminate copies of the other animals in the book then Velcro each onto the Kitty (lion, tiger, etc.) as the story page is read about the corresponding animal. Encourage the child to move the Kitty while reading that specific animal page. Play/Use with Others • Encourage stuffed animal pretend play with others using Lil Kitty (e.g. cat and dog chase, pet store, etc.).	

Additional Considerations:

- Do not inhibit Lil Kitty's movement, as this may cause irreversible damage.
- Do not lift Lil Kitty up by his tail, head or legs, or drop Lil Kitty.
- Do not submerge the unit in water, as it will damage the electrical components.

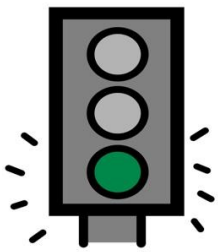
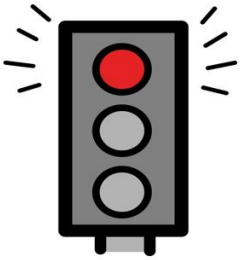
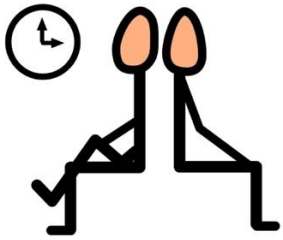
Additional Resources:

- OCALI Grab and Go Gallery of Resources : Turn Taking
  https://www.ocali.org/project/resource_gallery_of_interventions/page/Turn-Taking-Supports
- OCALI Grab and Go Gallery of Resources : What to Do Cards
  https://www.ocali.org/project/resource_gallery_of_interventions/page/What-to-Do-Cards

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.)
- CO: Cognitive Development: Demonstrates increasing ability to think symbolically (2.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Go 	Stop 	Help 
Stay 	Wait 	Meow 

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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