Musical Bear Stacker

(Pre-Academic Learning Switch Toy Kit – 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 activate the toy to do a specific function by pressing a switch. The Musical Bear Stacker can be activated by pressing a capability switch (e.g. Buddy Button). This toy offers the opportunity for a child to engage in a sensory (lights and music) cause and effect activity. Stack this toy's three colorful rings or press on the Bear's head or switch (not included) to make lights dance and music play! There are a total of five songs all together. Songs will play in a random order. The bear is 5½"D x 8½"H and weighs 1 pound. It requires 2 AA batteries.	 Purchasing Information User's Manual

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Enjoy music.
- Are working on fine motor and eye hand coordination skills to manipulate toys.
- Need a highly engaging activity to attend, focus, and interact with the toy.
- Need an opportunity to learn about and experiment with simple cause and effect activities.
- Need to work on visual tracking.

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.
- Engage in and understand simple cause and effect.

Instructions for Use:

Environmental Considerations

- Can be used in any environment but may not be suitable for quiet environments due to the songs and flashing lights that occur when the toy is activated.

Positioning

- The Musical Stacking Bear can 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.
- Place the toy so it is in easy reach and sight of the child.
- If the toy is positioned on the floor, it would be possible for the child to interact with the toy and switch in prone (lying on belly) or side lying positions.

Basic Play/Use

- Plug any capability switch into the 1/8" cord jack located on the side of the Bear, making sure the switch is plugged in all the way.
- Please Note: the first time you plug the switch into the Musical Bear Stacker it will play a song, this is normal to do switch adaptation.
- Be sure the child is positioned close enough to the Musical Bear Stacker to be able to see and hear the activity. Demonstrate how the sounds and lights play if the switch is pressed, then encourage the child to continue to explore on their own. This is a simple cause-and-effect use of the toy.
- Stacking the rings in the correct order or will also reward the user by making lights dance and music play!

Extended Play/Use

- Children could take turns activating the switch or stacking the rings to choose songs to be sung during circle time.

Adaptation Ideas:

Optional Additional Materials/Supplies

- Dycem
- Shelf liner
- Velcro

Stabilize It

- The base of the toy and switch could be placed on Dycem, shelf liner or velcroed to a table or the carpet on the floor so it doesn't move away from the child.

Simplify It

- Practice stacking largest ring until consistently successful, then move to stacking the largest and second largest ring, etc.

Add Sensory Cues

- Add sensory interest (e.g. adhesive backed "jewels"), textures (e.g. soft Velcro, or a High contrast "happy face" to switch surface.

Communication Support

- Provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. more, help, push, go, stop, bear, blue, yellow, blue, green, etc.) for the child to engage with the Musical Bear Stacker.

DIY Alternatives

- 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 video describes how to make this adaptation. (NOTE: the battery interrupter needed is specific to the size of the battery in the device).



	• Pool noodle stacker made from slices of pool noodles, a dowel rod or length of 12-inch diameter PVC pipe, and a cardboard box.

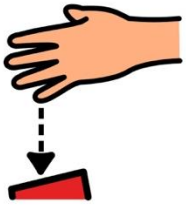
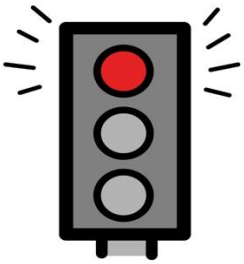
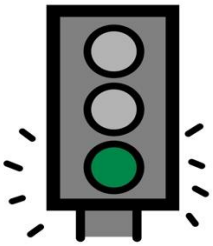
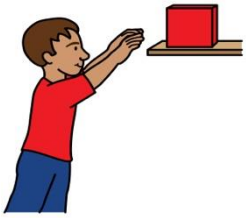
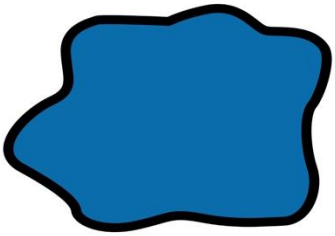
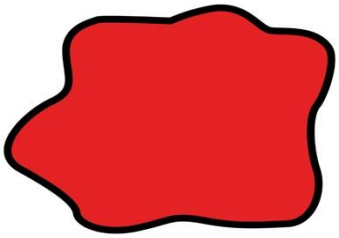
Additional Considerations:

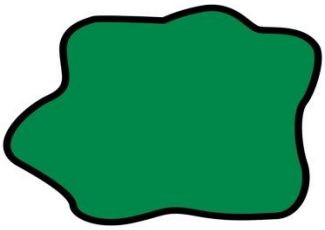
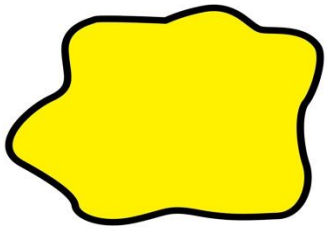
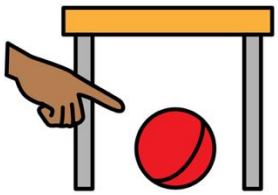
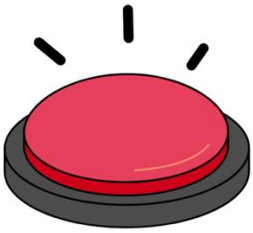
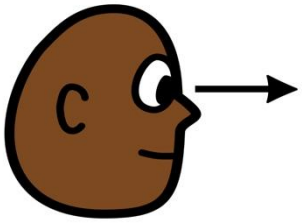
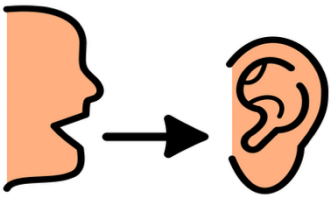
- 2 AA Alkaline batteries are needed as well as a switch to activate the toy.
- The Musical Bear Stacker has lights and recordings of familiar tunes. Some children with sensory sensitivities may not be able to tolerate the sound. Noise cancelling headphones could be used by the child to help reduce the noise if needed and can be obtained from the OCALI lending library as one of several items in the Sensory Regulation Kit.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops the ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Press 	Hold 
Let go 	Stop 	Go 
Button 	On 	Off 
Reach 	Blue 	Red 

Green 	Yellow 	Find 
Lights 	Music 	Look 
Listen 	Bear 	Help 

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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