Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar

(Pre-Academic Learning Switch Toy Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
Toys activated by switches are often used with children who do not have 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 a sensory, lights, and nursery rhyme cause and effect activity. The Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar is activated by pressing one of the colorful tactile switches. A pre-recorded nursery rhyme is recited by children while bright multi-colored lights twinkle along. Nursery rhymes include Mary Had a Little Lamb, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Humpty Dumpty, and Little Miss Muffet. When the Caterpillar face is pressed, the Caterpillar will ask the user to come and learn Nursery Rhymes with him. The Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar is 23"L x 11"W x 4½"H and weighs 2¼ lbs. It requires 4 C batteries.	 Purchasing Information Video User's Manual

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Need further practice and support of 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.

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:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used in any environment but may not be suitable for quiet environments due to the nursery rhyme recording playback and flashing lights that occur when the toy is activated. **Positioning** • This toy 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 (tummy time) or sidelying positions too. **Alternate Positioning** • This toy could be mounted on a wall or slant board for children to view and reach in a vertical plane. **Basic Play/Use** • Turn the ON/OFF/VOLUME switch clockwise and set it to desired volume level. Be sure the child is positioned close enough to the caterpillar to be able to see and hear the activity. Demonstrate how the rhymes and lights play if one of the switches is pressed, then encourage the child to continue to explore on their own. This is a simple cause and effect use of the toy. • When finished playing with Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar, turn the ON/OFF/VOLUME switch to OFF to help prevent battery drain. • Please Note: For prolonged periods of storage, removing the batteries in the Caterpillar is recommended. **Extended Play/Use** • Ask the child to find the blue, orange, red, or black buttons on the Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar. **Play/Use with Others**	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Shelf liner • Velcro • Duct tape **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** • The lights on top of the caterpillar could be covered with tape. **Add Sensory Cues** • The OCALI Lending Library has a twin vision version of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The twin vision version of the book includes contracted braille that has been added to an original text base book so it can also be used by children who have low vision or blind who are learning braille. **Communication Support** • Provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. more, help, push, go, stop, caterpillar, blue, orange, red, black, etc.) for the child to engage with the Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar. **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). 

• Children could take turns pushing the buttons to play the nursery rhyme recordings on the Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar.	

Additional Considerations:

- 2 AA Alkaline batteries are needed as well as a switch to activate the toy.
- The Nursery Rhyme Caterpillar has lights and recordings of nursery rhymes. 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.

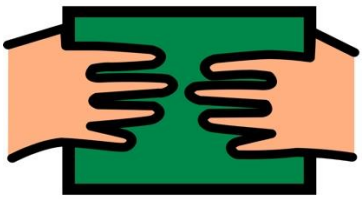
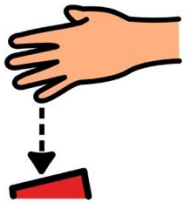
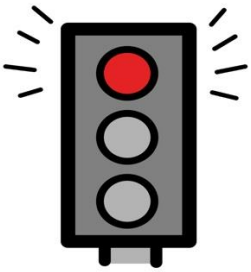
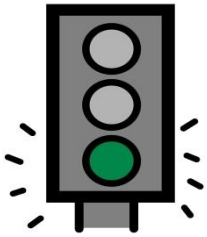
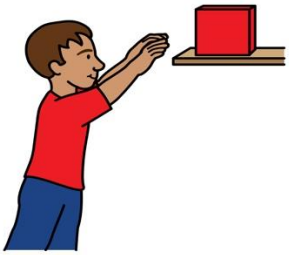
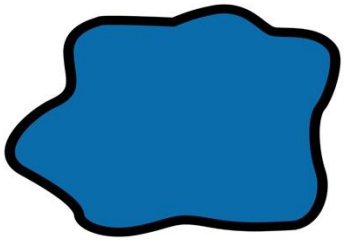
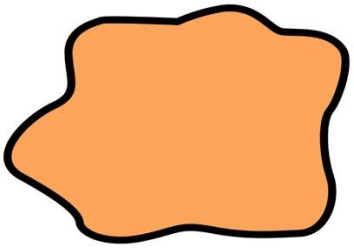
Additional Resources

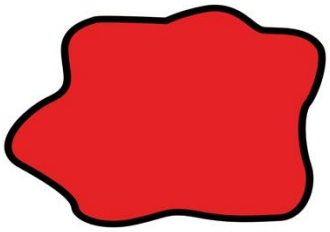
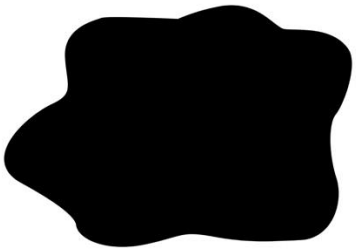
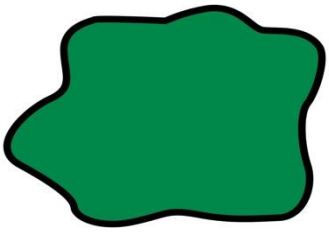
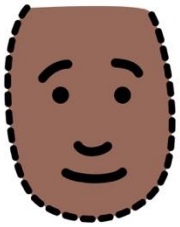
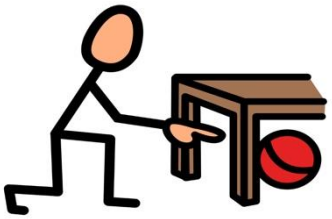
- Watch the video The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Consider checking out The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle from the OCALI Lending Library.
- For more information Nursery Rhymes, finger plays, and more relating to caterpillars and butterflies.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops the ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Press 	Hold 
Let go 	Stop 	Go 
Button/Switch 	On 	Off 
Reach 	Blue 	Orange 

Red 	Black 	Green 
Face 	Find 	Caterpillar 

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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