SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Shape Switch

(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 push to activate the toy to do a specific function. The 3 Shape Switch/Music Box music box is activated when the child inserts the correct shape into place. A pleasant tune is played. This toy can be used to reinforce color (red, yellow, blue) and shape recognition (circle, triangle, square). Every shape has a post for easy manipulation. The Shape Switch works as a stand-alone music box or as an external switch. The 3-Shape Switch/Music Box comes with a 1/8- to 1/8-inch connector cord for activating toys or devices with 1/8-inch jacks. To operate this unit as a switch, connect a cord to an external toy or device via the 1/8-inch jack on the back of the unit. If it's used as a switch, when all three shapes are placed, it activates a device but does not play music. The Shape Switch is 10¼"L x 4¼"W x 4"H and weighs 1 lb. It requires 2 AA batteries.	 Purchasing Information 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, 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 music that is played 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). **Alternate Positioning** • This toy could be placed on a slant board for children to view and reach in a vertical plane. **Basic Play/Use** • To operate this unit as a switch, connect a cord to an external toy or device via the 1/8-inch jack on the back of the unit **Extended Play/Use** • Ask the child to find the red, yellow, or blue shape and insert it into the correct space. • Ask the child to find the circle, triangle or square shape and insert it into the space. **Play/Use with Others** • Children could take turns drawing color or shape cards and placing the corresponding shape in its place.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Shelf liner • Velcro • Foam **Build It Up** • Build up shape handle for easy gripping. **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** • Provide only one shape at a time and cover other shape places. **Add Sensory Cues** • Wrap shape handles with hook or loop Velcro for additional tactile input. • Outline shape "places" with high contrast color or Wikki Stix. **Communication Support** • Provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. more, help, put, go, stop, circle, triangle, square, red, yellow, blue, etc.) for the child to engage with the Shape Switch. **Alternative Uses** • To operate this unit as a switch connect a cord to an external toy or device via the 1/8-inch jack on the back of the unit. The 3-Shape Switch/Music Box comes with a 1/8- to 1/8-inch connector cord for activating toys or devices with 1/8-inch jacks. When all three shapes are set in place properly, the unit will not play music, but it will activate a connected external toy or device.



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).

Additional Considerations:

- 2 AA Alkaline batteries are needed as well as a switch to activate the toy.
- The Shape Switch plays a tune when the shape is placed in its space. 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.

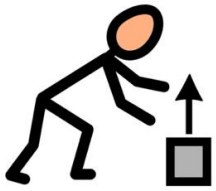
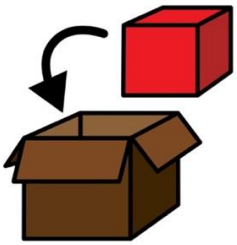
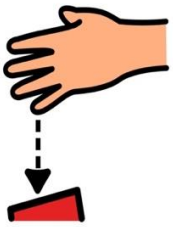
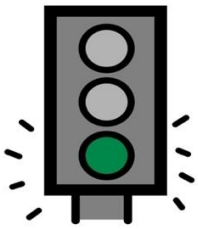
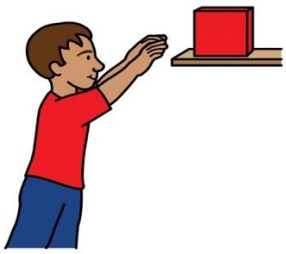
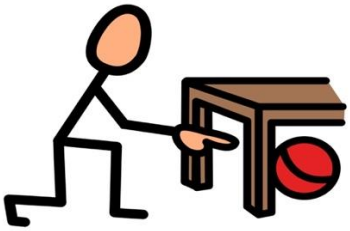
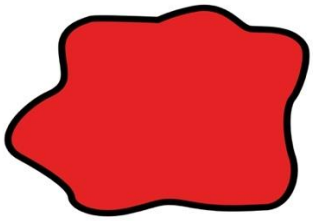
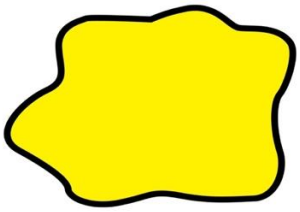
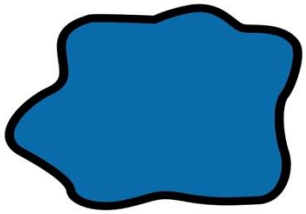
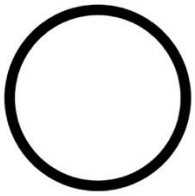
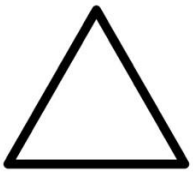
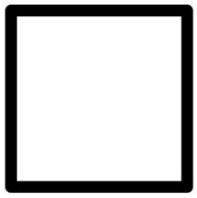
Additional Resources:

- Watch the video Triangle Circle Square Song

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.).
- CD: Problem-Solving and Reasoning: Uses increasingly complex strategies to solve problems (3.a.).
- SC: Science Inquiry and Application: Develops the ability to reason about cause and effect. (1.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Pick up 	Put in 	Let go 
Stop 	Go 	Reach 
Find 	Red 	Yellow 
Blue 	Circle 	Triangle 
Square 		

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