SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Squigz

(Adapting the Environment for Multi-Sensory Access EC – COE Kit)

Description:	Image:
This 24-piece set includes eight versatile shapes and colors (Squigz Starter Set: 2 Orange Pips, 8 Blue Doodles, 4 Green Grippities, 4 Purple Yoinks, 2 Yellow Skooches, 2 Red Gobnobs, 1 Dark Blue Wonkity, 1 White Zorbit). Made from 100% food-grade silicone, these BPA-free, latex-free Squigz stick to each other and any smooth surface, making them excellent for sensory activities. Easy to clean, these dishwasher-safe kids toys leave no residue, ensuring a hassle-free cleanup.	 Purchasing Information Demo Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Enjoy putting items together to build larger structures.
- Find the suction cups to be a fun sensory experience
- Need practice using fine motor skills for play.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Develop fine motor skills, visual motor skills, hand strength and sensory processing.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Squigz for toddlers are designed to promote creativity, motor skills, and problem-solving through engaging play.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Smooth surfaces (e.g., mirror, window, plastic tray, cookie sheet) • Pom poms (for color matching during extended play)

- These squishy fidget toys are great water play toys, turning water table or bath time into a joyful experience.

Positioning

- These stamps can potentially be used in a variety of positions, however it is important that the user(s) are able to view them and reach them easily.

Communication Support

- Provide paper-based communication board with alphabet letters and activity related words such as help, more, finished, stop, go, etc.

Basic Play/Use

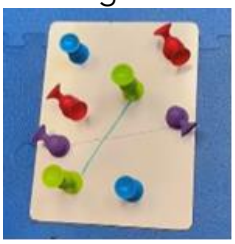
- Allow children to freely explore the Squigz by pressing them onto a smooth surface (e.g., window, mirror, plastic tray, or plastic bin).
- Encourage children to push Squigz together and pull them apart to experience the suction sensation.
- Invite children to connect Squigz to each other to build simple structures or towers.

Extended Play/Use

- Place pom poms on top of Squigz for color matching.



- Connect Squigz of the same color by drawing a line from one to the other.



Build It Up

- Wrap Wikki Stix around the base of individual Squigz to make them easier to grasp and manipulate for children with limited hand strength.

Stabilize It

- Press Squigz firmly onto a stable, smooth surface such as a plastic tray, window, or mirror so they remain in place during play and exploration.

Contain It

- Place Squigz and play materials on a rimmed cookie sheet or shallow tray to define the play space and keep pieces from rolling away.

Add Sensory Cues

- Fill a shallow tub or sensory bin with water and include Squigz to add a water play element and encourage tactile exploration in a new medium.

Communication Support

- Provide a communication board with activity-related vocabulary such as push, pull, pop, short, and tall.

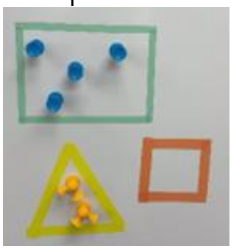
Alternative Uses

- Use Squigz as tactile markers on a smooth board to create patterns, practice color matching, or recreate simple designs from a visual model.

DIY Alternatives

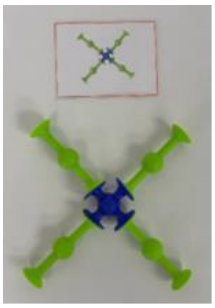
- Use small silicone suction cups as an alternative for sticking activities on smooth surfaces.
- Create simple color or shape sorting boards using laminated colored circles on cardstock to accompany Squigz color-matching activities.

- Create shape boundaries with colored lines or tape and sort Squigz by color.



Play/Use with Others

- Place Squigz in bowling pin formation and 'bowl' with sensory ball.



Additional Considerations:

- Warning: Choking Hazard (1) Not for under 3 years.
- Use with adult supervision, particularly during water play or when used with young children.

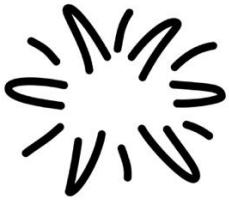
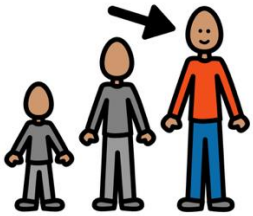
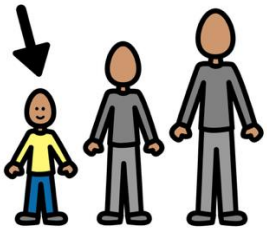
Additional Resources:

- Learn more about Squigz Therapy Activities from an occupational therapist's perspective, including ideas for targeting fine motor strength, bilateral coordination, and sensory regulation.
- Read an OT Insider Perspective on Squigz from Kidsense Therapy Group, with additional activity ideas.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- PW: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination. (1.b.)
- AL: Engagement and Persistence – Engages in new and unfamiliar experiences and activities. (1.a.)

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Push 	Pull 	Pop 
Tall 	Short 	

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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