

Simple Switch Activities

To often we run out of ideas and activities for students who have significant cognitive impairments. Here are some ideas for simple switch activities.

- Stage a race with two students operating two walking switch toys.
- Encourage the student to make a walking switch toy knock over blocks.
- Have a friend hold a hair dryer while another student operates a Powerlink to dry hair, fingernail polish, or art projects.
- Cut a door out of a box and have the student walk (by activating the switch) the pig or cow into "Old MacDonald's Farm" or a doghouse, etc.
- Classroom appliances can be a great source of fun, participation, and sensory experiences using the Powerlink with hot air popcorn poppers, toaster oven, sandwich machine, and blenders with adult supervision.
- Read books using low tech talking switches to speak the repetitive lines of the book.
- Speaking of art fun, attach markers to the back of switch cars or other moving toys or place the wheels of the car in the paint and then have the student "paint" on a large piece of paper.
- Fans can be made a little more fun by attaching streamers or tying a cloth with various scents to the fan. There is a commercially available aroma battery-operated fan. Consider the use of aromatherapy machines as well.
- Another home device that may prove useful are the various sound machines that the student could activate during quiet time or in a relaxing tent or area.
- Have a student be in charge of the music for musical chairs using a switch and a Powerlink.
- For classroom jobs/responsibilities the student can operate an electronic pencil sharpener or stapler using a Powerlink.
- Allow the student to use the Powerlink to turn on the quiet time video.
- Attach an electric blower to a Powerlink to inflate balls, holiday decorations, inflatable mattresses, therapy balls, etc.
- Let the student be the life of the party by operating the fog machine, black light, disco lights, air hockey table, karaoke machine, and CD player with a Powerlink.
- There are a variety of craft, game and toy machines that could be operated with a Powerlink: Easy Bake Oven, rock tumblers, "critter" machines, Elephant Snow Cone Machine, Simon game, etc.