

## UPDATED: 50 Simple Switch or Low Tech Ideas!



1. Place a switch that plays music inside a shape sorter so that it will activate when the shapes are inserted.
2. Encourage the child to make a walking switch toy, such as the pig or dinosaur knock over blocks or bowling pins. Stage a race with two children operating two walking switch toys. Attach a sight word, picture, or number to the switch toy on a notecard and “deliver” to the teacher.
3. Try out the new color changing mood lamps, such as this one from Amazon with a Powerlink: [link](#)
4. Bubbles: Use an electronic fan with a Powerlink from Ablenet: [link](#) or use a battery-operated fan to blow bubbles, connect electronic bubble blower with a switch or character switch operated blowers from Enabling Devices: [link](#)
5. Place bump and go switch toys within confined areas, such as a toy pen, hula hoop, box lid, or in a giant Frisbee.
6. Dress up the switch toys to reflect the seasons or classroom units, example: attach hat for witch, doll clothes for holidays, doll outfits for community helpers, etc.
7. Don’t forget to consider use of infrared toys with use of dedicated augmentative communication devices.
8. Use electronic make-up mirrors for play with face painting, pretend make-up or shaving, or dress-up with community helper hats with a Powerlink.
9. Have a friend hold a hair dryer while the child operates a hair or nail dryer to dry doll hair, fingernail polish, or art projects using a Powerlink.
10. Try an adapted bingo, catchphrase, or dice roller for playing games for all ages from Enabling Devices: [link](#) or a playing card shuffler from Adaptive Tech Solutions : [link](#)
11. Consider the Bluetooth options for toys such as Bluetooth Sensory Tube: [link](#)
12. Encourage the child to have the switch toy walk to specific classmates or stop and go upon command.
13. Cut a door out of a box and have the child walk the switch pig or cow into ”Old MacDonald's Farm” or a doghouse, etc.
14. Use a water pic to play with water or to paint with diluted paper on paper placed flat on the floor or upright at an angle with a Powerlink.
15. Have the child pick up objects placed on the floor or knock over blocks when in a power chair, electronic scooter.

16. Encourage the child to operate a massage pad or flexible wand for himself or a family member.
17. In a quiet area, sensory area, or tent, place a variety of the light and music switch items or a switch adapted vibrating tube or pillows, such as: [link](#) Facilitate the child's ability to turn on lights in the room, holiday lights, lamps in a classroom tent, lava lamps, light sculptures, blacklight, or try a plasma lamp from Enabling Devices [link](#)
18. Feed classroom pets, water plants, and assist in cooking activities using the pouring switch from Ablenet or make your own with instructions from the awesome web source Instructables: [link](#)
19. Classroom small kitchen appliances can be a great source of fun, participation, and sensory experiences using the Powerlink with hot air popcorn poppers, shake machine, toaster oven, sandwich machine, and blenders.
20. Remember to use the classroom tape recorder or boom box with switches for independent music play. Consider adding a sound and sensor bar from Enabling Devices: [link](#)
21. Read books using low tech talking AAC switches to speak the repetitive lines of the book.
22. Partial participation activities with peers can be fun in the class with one child pouring ingredients and the other operating the Spin Art or blender for example. Team up those with physical limitations with those without when using a Lite Brite, for example.
23. There are a variety of Spin Art games now including standard ones and musical Spin Art from Enabling Devices: [link](#) that can be operated with a battery interrupter and a switch from Enabling Devices or others.
24. A fan could also be used to blow paint or light-weight balls on an art project. 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 child "paint" on a large piece of paper.
25. Special switch-operated instant cameras are commercially available and may be very motivating for children to print pictures of peers for the classroom or for communication boards from: [link](#)
26. Try one of the dual purpose light and sound machines from Enabling Devices such as the Ocean Wave Light and it is iPod and MP3 compatible for music as well. [link](#)
27. Consider old classic games which have been updated like this Etch-a-Sketch [link](#)
28. Don't forget to explore whether a switch latch is needed for battery-operated toys and activities as this increases the child's control over the activity if he has mastered cause and effect. It is very difficult for many of our student's to maintain their pressure on a switch surface. The electronic activities can be latched through the use of the Powerlink.
29. Consider the coloring and music products for early learners, such as from Crayola's Color Me a Song: [link](#)
30. 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 too: [link](#). Consider the use of aromatherapy machines as well.
31. Consider book reading devices such as the Bookworm which makes any book switch accessible from Ablenet: [link](#)
32. Try placing walking switch toys inside the sensory tables filled with macaroni or beans and operated with a switch.

33. 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 Butterfly game, Snow Cone Machine, Simon game, etc.
34. Consider the realm of voice activated toys which can be activated with any sound or by pressing a simple talking device: water gun, truck, trains.
35. Have the child with the disability be in charge of the music for musical chairs.
36. During quiet time or in the relaxing tents, have the child operate an adapted flashlight for flashlight games. This can be done cooperatively as well with one child moving the light and the other child operating the battery-operated flashlight. Try a switch adapted laser light machine from Adaptive Tech Solutions: [link](#)
37. Holiday jobs could include being the child to light the pumpkin, turn on the Christmas lights, Hanukah candles, “deliver mail” via trucks or taped to walking toys, etc.
38. Adapt an animated puppet by placing a puppet on a spinning lollipop from the drugstore.
39. Don’t forget the battery operated switch accessible scissors for crafts from Enabling Devices or Amazon: [link](#)
40. Classroom jobs/responsibilities: operating electronic pencil sharpener, electronic stapler, turning lamps on and off, etc.
41. All-Turn-It Spinners from Ablenet: [link](#) for choosing centers, identifying peers, choosing class chores, choosing songs or books, playing games, dice drawing/coloring games, or general communicating. These are random choices with the student’s names drawn on the overlay.
42. Don’t forget that you can plug in switch toys into low tech AAC voice output devices like Big Macs from Ablenet. This way the child can “Say and Play”, such as operating a switch accessible toy while also “singing” or saying phrases, such as “My turn” or making animal noises with plush switch toys, etc.
43. Attach an electric blower to a Powerlink to inflate balls, holiday decorations, inflatable mattresses, therapy balls, etc.
44. Let the child be the life of the party by operating the fog machine, blacklight, disco lights, air hockey table, karaoke machine, and CD player with a Powerlink. How about a new switch fart machine? [link](#) Or what about a switch accessible water gun for summer fun from Adaptive Tech Solutions? [link](#)
45. Tag team with building sets such as the switch adapted marble maze building set from Enabling Devices: [link](#) or Gears! From Adaptive Tech Solutions: [link](#)
46. Developmental skills: Encourage the child's object permanence by having the child move the switch toy behind a barrier or play tunnel. Help the child to roll by placing a notebook or flat switch on the floor connected to boom box or other favorite switch toy.
47. Remember the cheapest way to get adapted switch toys if you are not handy and can adapt your own, is to purchase battery operated toys cheaply (garage sales, Ebay had 43 choices on one day recently) and add a battery interrupter from many sources including Amazon: [link](#) Truly amazing that Amazon is selling 143 switch adapted toys!
48. Switch accessible apps are becoming more available for IOS devices that are not augmentative communication apps. Inclusive Technology has several. Also consider these very easy to operate “almost” switch accessible apps: PictureBuild, Magic Fingers, Peek a Zoo (series), and Balls.

49. Book adaptations for Physical Limitations: build up pages by lamination, cut books and place pages into plastic page protectors and put in binder or use D-rings or string to bind (remember to number the pages prior to cutting!), attach binder clips to pages, Velcro circles, felt circles or foam, hot glue 'blobs', hair barrettes (clips), adhesive carpet backing, cross-stitch mounting foam, weather stripping, furniture felt leg protectors, buy two copies of book and cut each out/mount on cardboard/laminate/ place in binder, attach ice cream sticks to pages to help turn, notebook dividers (large), turn pages using unsharpened pencils held with the eraser down to turn the pages, use of book holders and stands, electronic page turners

50. Playboards: attach various themed toys with Velcro or shoe laces to carpet squares or Plexiglas boards attached with a c-clamp. Ideas for boards: Mr. Potato Head, pots and pans, dollhouse, vehicles.