



{inclusion outreach}

1031 Lucas Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 5L2
Tel 250-595-2088

www.inclusionoutreach.ca

Using a Switch in Middle and Secondary School

Using a switch to access gives the student an active, meaningful role in the classroom. It is an important skill for learning the concept of cause and effect and can lead to accessing technology or environmental controls in the future. There are a variety of devices that can be used with a switch. Pictured below are a Power Link for interrupting the power supply to basic appliances, a CanAssist spinner to make random selections, Step-by-step and Big Mac voice output devices, a Hitch interface for a computer, and a Pretorian iSwitch to interface with an iPad. Your local therapist can help to determine the most appropriate equipment.

		
Power Link	CanAssist Spinner	Step By Step
		
Big Mac Switch	Hitch	iSwitch

Think about the learning activities and routines that everyone is doing and how a switch could be incorporated into those. Ideally there will be plenty of opportunity for repetition and practice. Here are a few examples from a variety of subjects to get you started:

Math:

- play board games using a spinner
- select the math problem for the class using a spinner

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Language Arts, Languages and Social Studies:

- turn pages of electronic books (Pictello app, or Tar Heel Reader)
- Use a switch to select the vocabulary words for the class
- use a switch to tell a joke in a different language
- access the computer using a Hitch interface to do internet research

Science:

- Use a WaterPic to help water plants or study water physics
- Use a fan to study wind
- Operate the power for the appliances for science experiments

PE:

- Start and stop background music
- Use a spinner to select warm up exercises

Foods:

- Help prepare food by operating the blender, can opener, blender, mix master, coffee maker, food processor/chopper or a popcorn popper

Fine Arts:

- Play music with CanTunes for dance, impressionistic painting, or drama skit
- Use a paper shredder or food processor to prepare papier mache
- Spin art/twirl-o-paint can be switch operated to make abstract designs
- Sharpen pencils with an electric sharpener

Band/ Music:

- use musical instrument apps to play guitar, zylophone etc.
- record a portion of the band class in Garage Band replay the performance or re-mix sounds

Sewing:

- Use a switch to operate electric scissors
- Start and stop power to the sewing machine so a partner can sew

Woodworking

- Connect a drill press to the PowerLink. Use the switch to run the press so classmates work together to make a project.

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