



{inclusion outreach}

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

www.inclusionoutreach.ca

Using a Switch in Elementary

Using a switch to activate an appliance can be an important skill for learning the concept of cause and effect and can lead to accessing technology or environmental controls in the future. Using a switch in an elementary classroom can help the student to take a more meaningful and active role in participation with the grade level curriculum and with their classmates. Think about the lesson being taught and how you might incorporate a switch into what everyone is learning.

For switch use to have the most ongoing meaning, it needs to happen in the context of a classroom routine that the student does on a regular basis. When switch access is new, opportunities for practice are important. Encourage classmates to try the switch as well. This reinforces the use of the switch and places value on technology as the way to interact with the environment.

Battery Operated Devices

Battery adapters are available for AA, C, D, and A batteries. When ordering adapters, make sure to specify the size needed.

Powerlink

A switch can be attached to basic analogue electrical devices using an AbleNet Powerlink. Use of these electrical devices in the classroom is intended to enhance a student's active participation and learning. Some electrical appliances that could be used in the classroom include:



blender
sewing machine
popcorn popper
juicer
ice cream machine
can opener
kettle
toaster
food processor

mixer
electric scissors
card shuffler
magnifier lamp
desk lamp
spinner
stapler
stereo
tape recorder

fan
organ/keyboard
Paint 'N Swirl
vibrating pad
foot bath
paper shredder
hair dryer
pencil sharpener
power tools

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Ideas for Using Switches in the Classroom:

A Litebrite can be illuminated by the student with a switch to show

- patterns, or geometric shapes for math
- Use Paint 'N Swirl to create backgrounds for projects and displays.
- Paper shredders can be used to create bedding material for class pets or compost for a school garden
- Use switch operated mixer to make playdoh or cookie dough for model making
- Make popcorn with a popcorn popper before a movie, or to use for an art project
- Start and stop music on a radio
- Operate a timer for the class
- Use a mixer to make cookie dough, papier mache or playdoh for art projects
- Use a hairdryer to dry the glue or paint for a group project
- Help sharpen pencils and pencil crayons for the group with an electric sharpener
- Help prepare snack or lunch by operating the blender and/or microwave
- Operate a food processor to slice vegetables for salad or dinner
- Operate a fan to study wind dynamics in science

Respect

Competence

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Presence

Choice



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