





TYPES OF SWITCHES

There are a variety of switches available. Switches are activated in a different ways according to:

- Your student's volitional movement
- The amount of pressure required to access the switch
- Your student's body position
- Whether your student requires access to the switch in different positions (e.g. both in a chair, on the floor and in a stander)
- The mounting system necessary to support the switch

Some of the most common switches include the following ...

<p>Jellybean switch for direct hit using the hand, or with mounting for a head or knee access switch.</p>	
<p>A lighter switch, such as a spec or leaf switch, can be accessed using the fingers or palm of the hand or other areas of the body that might require a light "touch" with a smaller surface (e.g. the finger and palm, shoulder or cheek).</p>	
<p>A pillow switch is often used for head switch site. This switch is more functional for a student who activates the switch using a little more pressure (e.g. an individual with high tone, or a student with Athetoid movement).</p>	
<p>A lever switch is a lighter switch with a longer lever (or surface). This switch is often used as a head or shoulder switch.</p>	

Remember...

Before deciding on a specific switch for your student to permanently use, s/he should experiment with a few different switches and sites over a period time. This will help to establish the easiest switch and switch site for access.

To determine the switch type and suitability, it is recommended that school teams consult with their local Occupational Therapist (OT), Physiotherapist (PT), and Speech & Language Pathologist (SLP).