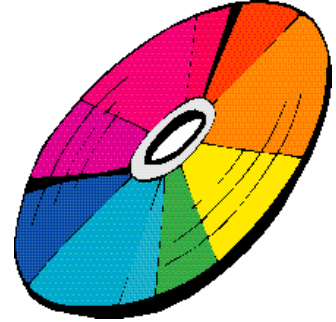


## USING A SWITCH IN THE COMMUNITY AND... DAY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

For switch use to have the most ongoing meaning, it needs to happen in a functional context as part of a routine that the student does on a regular basis.

### Crafts At The Day Program

- Use a mix master and switch to mix cookie dough, paper maché or play dough for crafts projects. Friends can mold play dough and cookie dough into thematic objects (dinosaurs, letters, spacecraft).
- Spin crafts/twirl-o-paint can be switch operated to make abstract designs for friends. Choose the colors. These designs are nice on their own or can be used as backgrounds for other projects. AbleNet makes twirl-o-paint.
- Play background music with a switch operated tape recorder for friends to do impressionistic painting. Paper can be divided into six compartments. The student can play a short music segment while friends paint what they visualize or how it makes them feel. Repeat with six different types of music. Use the Timed function on the Powerlink.
- Use a popcorn popper to make popcorn crafts projects.
- Make gifts using spin crafts or twirl-o-paint. For example, place mats, writing paper, background designs for gifts or special occasion cards, book covers, cardboard designs to cut out and shellac for brooches, earrings and refrigerator magnets.
- Illuminate a mirror for a face painting session.



### Grocery Store Job

- Greet the storekeepers and ask where certain items can be found, using the Step-by-Step Communicator.

### Cooking

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

### Jobs At Day Program

- Help prepare lunch by operating the blender.
- Use a communication device (Voicepal or Step by Step) with messages when collecting messages. The messages could be made by friends and could change frequently to maintain the novelty. The messages could be jokes, statements or questions. Conversation is enhanced if the message ends with a question.

### Home

- Play the radio or recorded music using an AbleNet control unit and switch.
- Turn on the TV and change channels using a TV/Video Control Unit from AbleNet. See the catalogue. Available through Insight Media in Surrey.
- Use a Step by Step to record conversations, jokes, compliments, questions or plans made with friends during break time so she can replay them at home for enjoyment and follow-up.

### Volunteering At The Local Day Care Facility

- Friends with written output difficulties can read short writing assignments into the tape recorder. The student can use the switch to play it back to the class for sharing time.
- Run a listening center with a switch to check comprehension. Pre-record on a tape player a short story for three to four pre-schoolers to listen to. Then play pre-recorded comprehension questions for them using the Step by Step

- When some children finish reading a selection, they could go to The student to hear pre-recorded comprehension questions. These could be played with a switch and tape player and control unit. Use the timed function so the tape stops after each question and is ready for the next question the next time the switch is pressed.
- Play a piece of music, then friends then write or tell a story about the music.
- Play pre-recorded news for sharing time. A friend could record news sent in by The student's family.
- Use a switch-activated tape recorder with Talking Books from the public library.



### Leisure Time volunteering At The Local Senior Centre

- Play games using an All-Turn-It Spinner: This tool is available from **Insight Media Centre in Surrey (604) 581-2420**, for \$171.00. It includes a "shake the dice" overlay. Additional accessory packages can be purchased, e.g., re-usable vinyl stickers for customizing an overlay, "Bowling" and "Golf" games. At its simplest level it can be used to make random choices in games. The overlays can be used to roll "1 dice" or "2 dice".
- People can be assigned different roles. One person could be the "spinner" for all the players. Another student could be the calculator and add the numbers when 2 dice are "rolled".
- People can work in partners.
- Voice output could be added by plugging in a Bigamy or Step-by-Step. Use the sequences to say whose turn is next, to say encouraging phrases.
- Run a battery operated card shuffler using a battery bypass device from Radio Shack and the AbleNet control unit. (This could be borrowed from PISP for trial.)
- Operate a game spinner to make random selections with other People playing a game, for example, Twister. The disc could have the four colours of the game on it. The student could select the colours for the next player.

### Music

- Play a pre-recorded tape of an instrument for friends to guess which instrument is playing.
- The student could tape a portion of the Music class and at their request replay their performance for them to critique.
- The student could play pre-recorded applause upon completion of a recital.
- Play a recording of a bell chime along with other instruments being played.
- Use Step by Step to name which instrument should play next during a practice.



### Office Jobs at a Local Small Business, or Library

- Sharpen pencils for office staff with an electric sharpener.
- Shred paper for staff using switch and control unit and paper shredder.
- Operate electric stapler to help collate materials for other teachers.
- Use a WaterPic (a water pressure system used to remove plaque from teeth which may be found in a garage sale or advertised in a want ad) to help water plants. Connect it to a control unit and switch. Friends could bring plants to The student. They could hold the wand while she presses the switch long enough to water the plant. The student may be able to hold the wand if the handle is enlarged.
- Operate electric stapler to help collate materials.

### Local Recreation Centre - Movement Activities

- Play a pre-recorded tape to control movement to music in a dance class.
- Play background music for warm ups or dramatic dance.

- Play a pre-recorded tape to give instructions or directions for others to follow for movement activities or games.
- Play pre-recorded cheers to cheer on friends during team sports.
- Announce the starting line-up or the start of a team game.
- Give instructions to the team/class on the Voicepal or the Step-by-Step.

#### **Volunteer Jobs or Service Opportunities**

- Use a can opener to remove lids from cans for recycling at the local depot.
- Operate a paper shredder to make nesting material for class pets. Supply this to local pet store or vet.
- Operate a mix master for play dough to make models for themes (planets, shadow box). The student chooses the colours as well. This could be used at an after school program
- Make popcorn with a popcorn popper before viewing a video at the after school program

