

Student's Motivators

Students need to be motivated to work on their skills (e.g., choice making, using switches, using their hands, walking, etc.) as it often takes a great deal of effort to perform these tasks. Sometimes students with severe/profound cognitive disabilities may have more sensory related motivators. We as educators need to make sure that the activities we create for our students include their own personal motivators while still being age appropriate. The following are some examples for a student.

Student's Motivators	Age Appropriate Activities In The Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food; cooking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make muffins or cookies & sell at store • make dog biscuits to sell at pet store
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buttons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sort buttons for local thrift store or dry cleaning outlet • make a button blanket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hair pulling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have hair done at hair dresser's • hair style club at school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • movement (head side to side, rocking body, walking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking dogs for people who are busy • walking with a senior who needs to get out more • go to concerts to rock with the music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • country music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playing country music with switch at local senior centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • movement & exercise (describe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in exercise group at day program or local weight loss centre • play music at local exercise classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • picture books, library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playing tapes and books to local day care centre for pre-schoolers or after school care • returning, picking up and delivering books for those who are immobile • tidy shelves for school library
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invite closest peers out for a treat at Dairy Queen during break or after school hours • tell jokes to peers at recess • play games with peers using All-Turn-It Spinner by AbleNet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • praise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hand out cookies, juice, jokes and nice compliments to patients at local hospital, where s/he will receive thanks & praise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earrings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with peers at the day program to help make and sell earrings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sort earrings at local thrift store
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• videos (Disney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• volunteer job - watch Disney videos with pre-school group; use voice output to ask questions to children throughout video