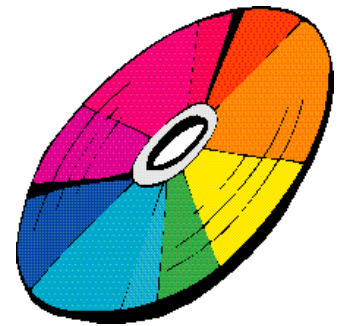


USING A SWITCH IN THE COMMUNITY AND... DAY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

For switch use to have the most ongoing meaning, it needs to happen in a functional context as part of a routine that the individual does on a regular basis. The following are some ideas for individuals (without consistent functional hand use), to participate in activities in their adult lives.

Crafts At The Day Program

- Use a mix master and switch to mix cookie dough, paper mache 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 individual 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 or make-up session.



Cooking

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

Grocery Store Job

- Greet the storekeepers and ask where certain items can be found, using a Step-by-Step Communicator or other voice output device.

Jobs At An Adult 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 or AbleNet.

- Use a Step by Step Communicator or other sequenced voice output device 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 A Local Day-Care Facility

- Friends with written output difficulties can read short writing assignments into the tape recorder. The individual 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 Communicator.
- When some children finish reading a selection, they could go to the individual to hear pre-recorded questions. These could be played with a switch and tape player and control unit or the Step-by-Step Communicator can be used. 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 for children at the day care.
- Play pre-recorded jokes for sharing time. A friend could record news sent in by the individual's family.
- Use a switch-activated tape recorder with Talking Books from the public library.
- Make popcorn with an air popper for the children.
- Make smoothies for the children with a blender. Make choices around the fruit to go into the smoothie.



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 BIGmack or Step-by-Step Communicator. Use the sequences to say whose turn is next and to say encouraging phrases.
- Run a battery operated card-shuffler using a battery interrupter device from "The Source" or Insight Media, and the AbleNet control unit.
- Operate a spinner to make random selections with other people playing a game, (e.g., Twister). The disc can have the four colours of the game on it. The individual could select the colours for the next player.

Refer to the example of this individual using a switch and a battery interrupter to run a dollar-store battery operated fan, which has been converted, to a spinner. A grid has been made so that the spinner is used to select a body part and a colour for the Twister game.

Refer to video clip MVI_0919.AVI to view this video of a leisure activity which can occur in a group home or Adult Day Program: http://www.pisp.ca/strategies/MVI_0919.avi



Music Activities At Adult Day Programs

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

Office Jobs at a Local Small Business, or Library

- Sharpen pencils for office staff with an electric sharpener.
- Shred paper for staff using a switch and AbleNet Powerlink 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 individual. They could hold the wand while she presses the switch long enough to water the plant. The individual may be able to hold the wand if the handle is enlarged.
- Operate electric stapler to help collate materials.



This individual is using a jelly bean switch to ...

- run the paper shredder
- operate the tape recorder

In this way, she is doing a job for someone while also playing music for herself, which is a great motivator.

Jobs can be enhanced by pairing extra sensory feedback, attached to the AbleNet Powerlink.

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 at a local recreation centre.
- Announce the starting line-up or the start of a game.
- Use the voice output device to ask for a treat at the concession stand at your local recreation centre.

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 pets. Supply this to local pet store or vet.
- Operate a mix master for play dough to make models for themes. The individual 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 an after-school program

