SWITCH TYPES

PUSH/TOUCH SWITCH

The push (or touch) switch is the most common type, as the child activates the switch by pushing against the surface of the switch. Push switches are available in a wide range of sizes and shapes, in the type of feedback and in the amount of force a child must use.

LEVER/WOBBLE SWITCHES

Lever switches can be activated by pushing in more than one direction. The leaf and wobble switches are examples of this type of switch. Pushing against or bending the flexible tip in any direction operates these switches. Often mounted near the hands or face/head, they are less rigid than other switches and often are designed for mounting systems

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CHAIN SWITCH

If a child is unable to make a reliable pushing movement, other switches are designed for different motoric movements. Examples of these are a pull switch, roller switch, grasp or grip switch, pinch switch, chin switch or tongue switch. These motor-specific switches are designed for users with focused abilities.

OTHER MOTORIC SWITCHES

Shown are:

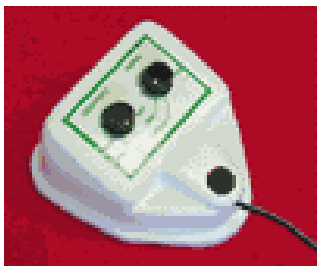
- a chain switch where a child can make any movement that causes the chains to move against the metal bar.
- a String switch is pulled to turn a toy on; it has been modified with a koosh ball to make its target easier to see and grab.

ACTIVITY SWITCH

Switch closure can also be the result of a separate activity with the target responding when a separate task is completed. In the photo, when the puzzle is completed, switch closure occurs and the toy that it is connected to turns on.

SENSITIVITY SWITCHES

For children with minimal movements, switches are available which respond to the slightest muscle contraction (the ability to flex and release any muscle). These sensitivity switches are adjusted to correspond to the voluntary movements, including moving an eyebrow or smiling. **Shown** is the Twitch Switch, activated by any small muscle movement, such as wrinkling the forehead.



OTHER INPUT SWITCHES

Some switches are controlled by sound or voice; a change in air pressure (pneumatic): sipping, blowing or puffing through a tube; movement near the switch; change in moisture: taction pads (Adaptivation) activate with moisture contained in hand/finger skin touch or eye blink. **Shown** is a Voice Switch that is activated by any sound or vocalization

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