

# Switching Activities For the Classroom

Students will benefit most when switching practice is incorporated into their everyday routines. There can also be many opportunities to develop independence and foster self-esteem through the use of switching. Below are some ideas that can be used throughout a school day using just a voice output switch and a Powerlink.

## Voice output switch (single or multiple message)



### Morning

- Greet staff and classmates.
- Respond when having name called for the role.
- Comment on the weather today.
- Share news.
- Lead a morning song.

### Lessons

- Contribute to a story or song at the appropriate time; e.g 'EiEiO' in 'Old McDonald Had a Farm Song'.
- Give instructions to the class for a cooking lesson, science experiment or art activity.
- Say 'my turn' for a class activity.
- Say 'Ready, Set, Go' for class activities or races.

### In the playground

- Greet friends in the playground
- Say 'go' on the swing. Place the switch on the swing or hold it for the student. They can use the switch to say 'go' to request more swinging.

### Doing jobs

- Deliver messages to and from other classes or to the office
- Make an announcement over the school PA
- Give a speech at assembly
- Greet visitors to the school

### Celebrations

- Say or sing 'Happy Birthday' or 'Merry Christmas'



## Powerlink

### Morning

- Turn on or off a light
- Turn on or off fan



### Lessons

- Turn on or off radio for the class.
- Use a blender, popcorn maker, sandwich maker, food processor in cooking class
- Use a hairdryer to blow paint covered ping pong balls across paper to paint

### Doing jobs

- Operate a paper shredder
- Do some vacuuming
- Use a leaf blower to clean up



### Celebrations

- Use a fan to blow out birthday candles
- Turn on or off Christmas lights
- Start and stop music for a game of musical chairs
- Operate music and disco lights

## Useful websites for additional classroom switching ideas

10 Things I Can Do For Myself and then some...

<http://www.spectronics.com.au/downloads/thirdparty/CTG-Article-10Things.pdf>

Ablenet Remarkable Ideas: Classroom activity plans for switch users;

Making Sunshine Shakes

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/RemarkableIdeas/Downloads/sunshine-shakes.pdf>

Bowling Fun for All

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/RemarkableIdeas/Downloads/Bowling.pdf>

A Windy Day at the Races

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/RemarkableIdeas/Downloads/Windy-Day.pdf>

Staying Warm Like Penguins Do

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/emails/RemarkableIdeas/Downloads/Penguins.pdf>



Unlocking Abilities: Developing touchscreen, switch and eye gaze skills for learning and beyond  
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