

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...

<https://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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