

# Assistive Technology Training Online

University at Buffalo - The State University of New York  
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<http://at-training.com>



## Classroom Switch Activities

### GAMES

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES** such as flashlights and tape recorders can be adapted in the same way.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL UNITS** can ensure that everyone participates in cooking activities; adapt a blender, popcorn popper, food processor, etc. They connect a device with a plug-end to a switch.

### GAMES

Participating in games provides students with the opportunity to learn social interaction, communication, and adaptive behavior skills. Games that are battery-operated and have an on/off switch can be adapted for external switch control by placing a battery device adapter/battery cell interrupter between the battery and one of the battery contacts. Many battery operated games such as Bed Bugs, Blast Out, Looping' Louie, and Yahoo Buckaroo are age-appropriate for elementary school students.

- Gearation (TOMY)
- Light Brite
- Spin Art
- Operation (Milton Bradley)
- Bed Bugs (use bed to "shake" dice)
- Use a tape recorder with a switch to play "statues", "Red Light, Green Light"



**Gearation (TOMY)**

## Classroom Activities

- Electronic appliances that can be adapted for switch use include: pencil sharpeners, scissors, flashlights, tape recorders, radios, etc.

- The child can use the clock communicator to direct siblings/peers/parents to string beads as to size color and shape.
- The child can tell a story using a switch and the clock communicator. Attach pictures from the story to the clock.
- Using an environmental control unit, the child can participate in a variety of activities using a switch to operate appliances. These can include foods prepared with blenders (milkshakes), pop corn poppers, food processors (cranberry relish) and mixers (cakes).
- Use a switch adapted tape recorder with a loop tape to record the repetitive line of a story. A child can activate the switch at the appropriate time.
- To join in "band time", use a switch, tape recorder and loop tape with drum rolls or cymbal clashes.
- Use a switch and tape recorder for a child to control the music of "freeze frame movement".