

The Power of Play

Motivation, Participation and Adaptive Play for the Child with Complex Needs

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Primary Focus of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Therapy

☀️ Helping children participate in life, not just in therapy. 🧡❤️



Primary focus:
Help the child build
skills to participate in
everyday life.



We build skills for
everyday life.



Therapy is an
interruption in life;
not a way of life.



Therapy time is
temporary.



Therapy should support
the child's skills to
participate in life
outside of the clinic.



Skills are for life
outside the clinic.



Therapy is not
an extracurricular
activity.



It is not an extra.
It is essential.



Therapy has a
limited life span:

- Insurance restrictions
- Plateau
- Age
- Access



Time is limited.



Our goal is independence, participation, and a meaningful life.
We build skills for today... and for the future.



Motivation Investigation

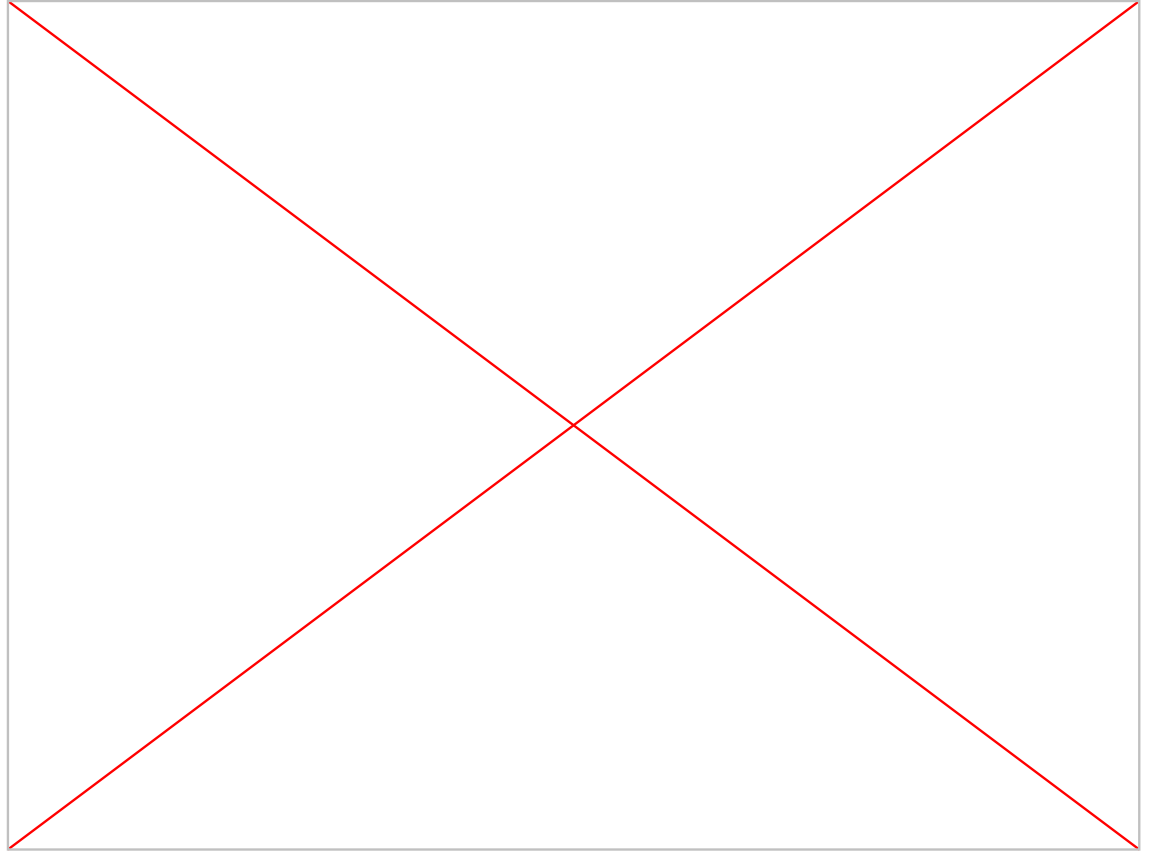
(Engaging the Child)

- Think about the sensory properties of an activity the child loves.
- Asking the therapist/teachers what the child likes. Then, try to match the sensory properties of that activity in other toys or play schemes.
- Investigate options of accessibility that increase engagement which will likely increase participation.

Example

- 5 year old child with cerebral palsy
- limited verbalization and very social
- Poor oral secretion control
- Limited upper extremity use
- Utilizes a wheelchair
- Favorite activity: loves birthday parties, swinging, sliding and 'helping' read stories
- Sensory information: auditory, tactile (light input on face from air when swinging or sliding) visual and vestibular.

Tactile
Visual
Auditory



Expansion Ideas

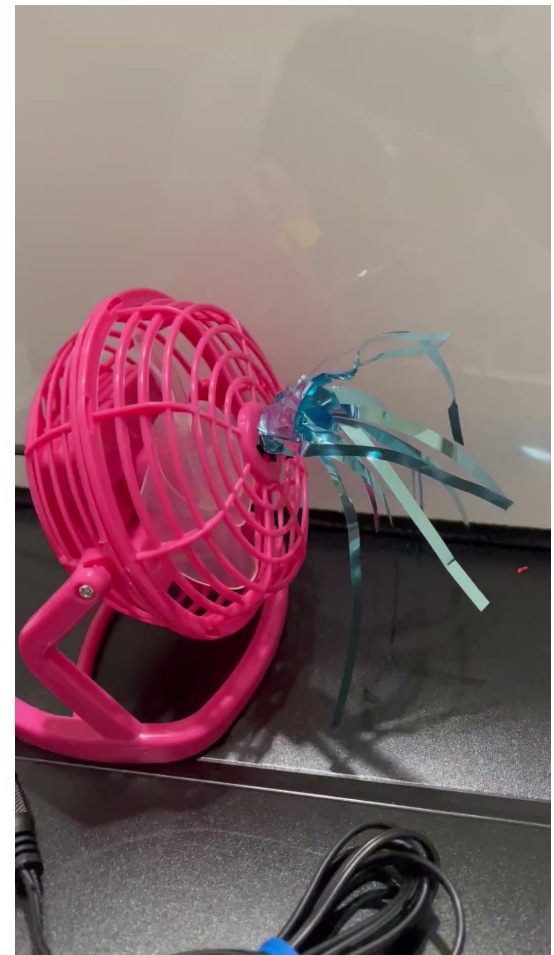
- Weather “Helper”- use fan to simulate a windy day
- Supporting Book activities:

Dragons Love Taco- Add flames

Going on a Bear Hunt- Windy day or use spray bottle and fan for rainy

Community Helper Book- Fire Hose

Three Little Pigs – Wolf character ‘huffing and puffing’



Accessibility

Access to seating/standing that supports the play

Access to toys that can be manipulated that support the play

Access to the language system that supports the play (core language boards)

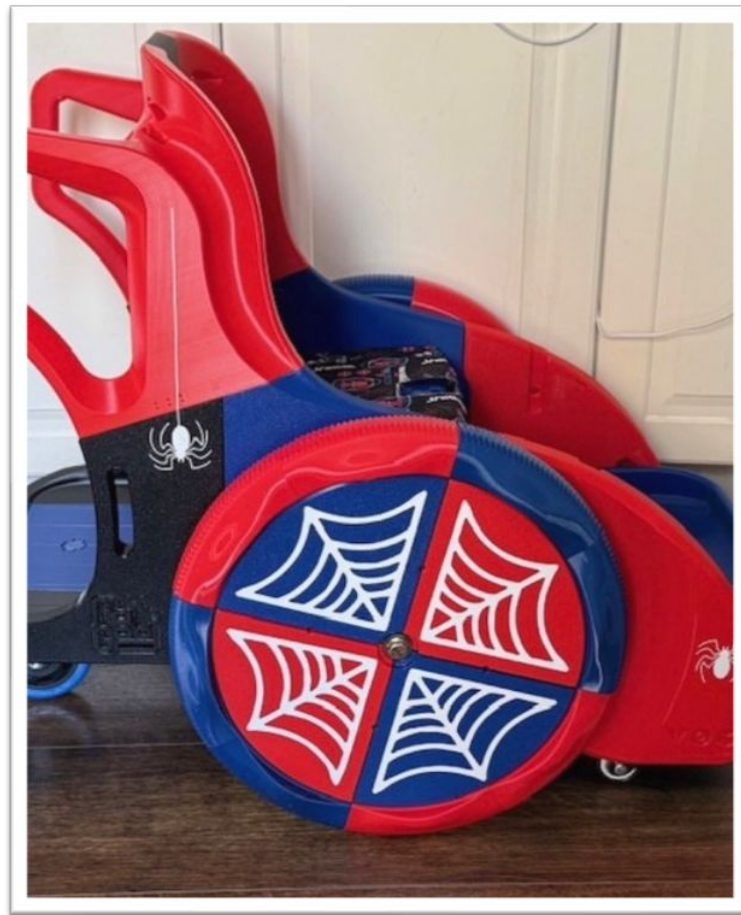
Ability to play supports participation and vice versa.

Seating

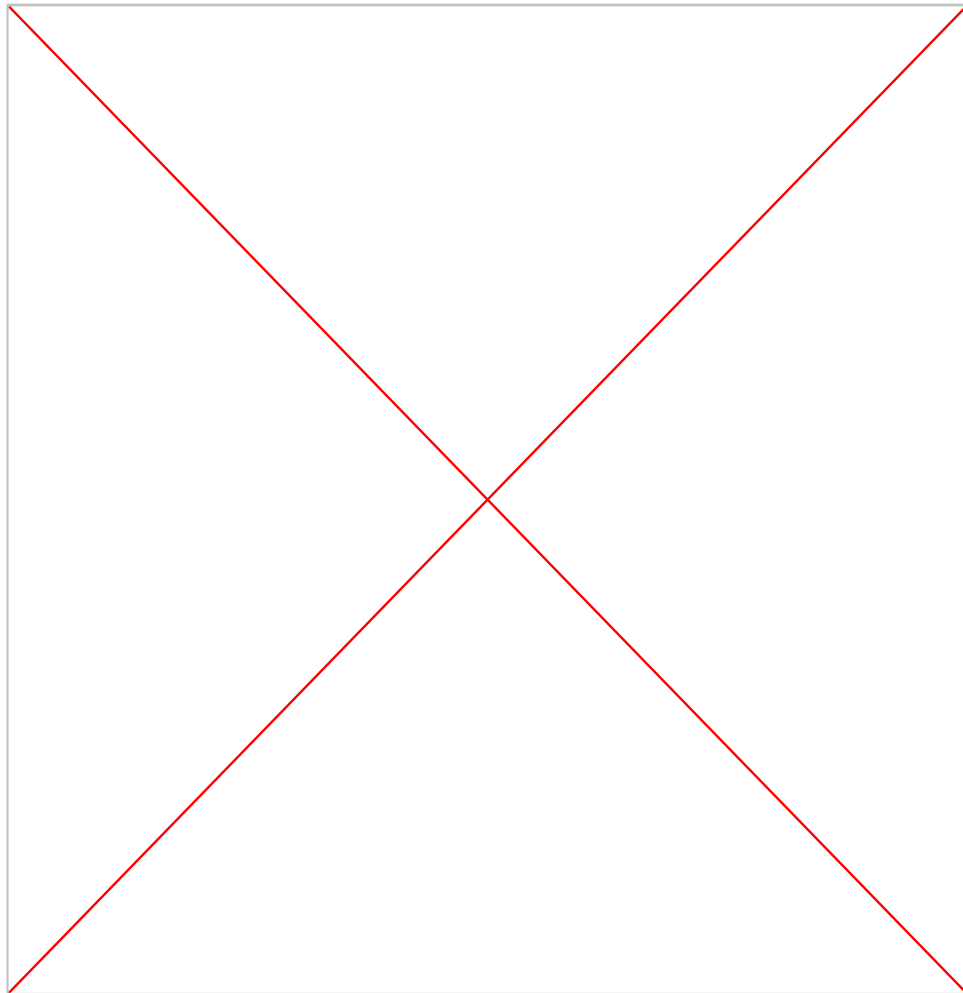


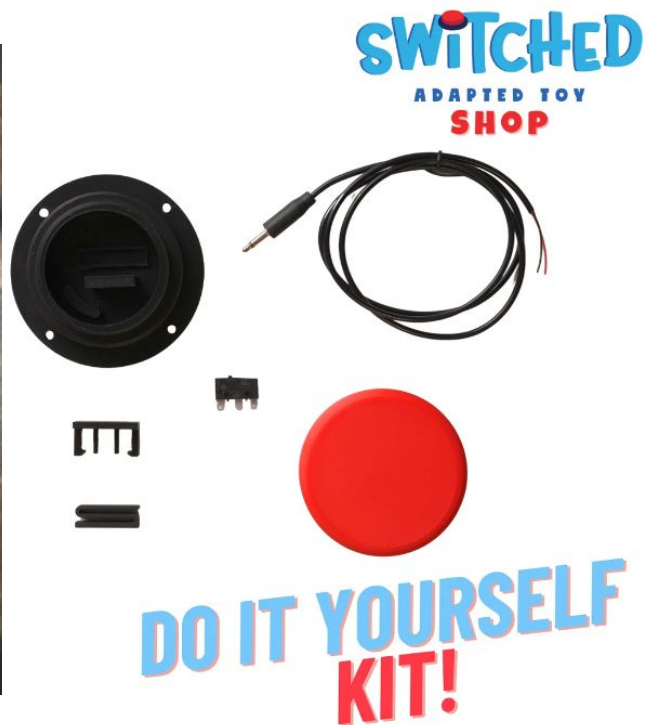
Toddler Mobility Trainer





Switch Adapted Toys





MY STORE

Switch Kit - DIY Switch Button Assembly Kit

\$10.00 USD

Size

Standard

Mini

Mega

Color: Red



Quantity

-

1

+

Add to cart

Buy with **shop**  9352

[More payment options](#)

This 3D Printed Switch Button Kit is designed for anyone who wants to create their own accessible switch but doesn't have a 3D printer. Perfect for classrooms,

Household Items

Spray bottles

Flashlights

LED Balloons (be careful of the battery)

Fairy Lights/ Christmas tree lights

Salad spinner (put fairy lights in it and spin - if tolerated)

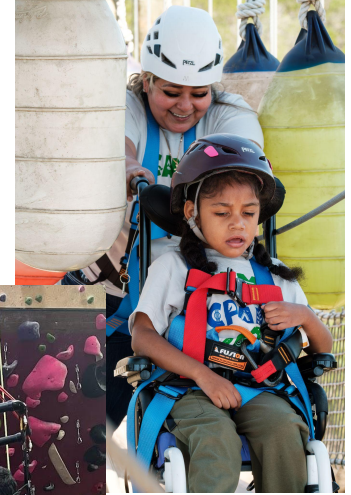
Ice Packs- think of Let It Go “the cold never bothered me anyway”

Hot packs- Goldilocks’ porridge

Final Consideration

Would the adapted fan be enjoyed by his peers?

Participation in Action: Community Support



CPATH Texas: Central Texas nonprofit

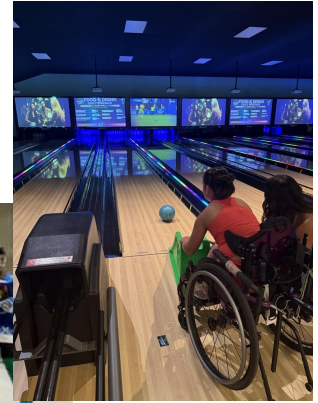


- Founded in 2013 by a group of moms looking for community
- Free programs & services for the cerebral palsy & physical disability community
- Answers to our community's needs regarding adaptive and accessible opportunities



Adaptive Sports & Recreation for ALL ABILITIES!

Everyone should be able to participate in community activities, no matter the physical barrier!



Resources

Texas:

- [Navigate Life Texas](#)
- [Texas ParaSport](#)
- [Special Olympics of Texas- FUNdamentals](#)

Nationally:

- [Moved United](#)
- [National Ability Center](#)
- [Challenged Athletes Foundation](#)

Social Media Accounts for Adaptive Play

Instagram

- @aacforall
- @cvi.mom
- @specialachievers
- @fairplayorg
- @ablejoytoys
- @mrjeffadaptedpe
- @makegoodnola

Youtube Channels

- Switched: Adapted Toys
- Katherine Dally (AAC for ALL)
- TheLaserguy2

Websites:

- <https://www.bagbooks.org>
- <https://3d-mobility.org>
- [Texas Technology Access Program](#)

3-D Printing Resources



Instagram: @makegoodnola



Instagram: @makersmakingchange



Instagram: @tikkunolammmakers.org



Instagram: @abilitease

Thank you!

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