

# Adapting Activities for Children with Special Needs

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## Objectives

- Identify children's play needs
- Identify what to look for when choosing toys
- Identify ways to adapt toys/ activities



## General Guidelines for Play

- Talk to the child at eye level
- Use a soothing/ soft voice
- Give ample time to respond to questions
- Age appropriate toys vs. Developmentally appropriate toys
- Multiple stimulation toys: lights, textures, sounds

## How to get children to play

- Talk with family to see what they like to do at home
  - e.g. music, being held, read to, light up toys, soft toys, etc.
- Bring multi-purpose toys to room
- Observe child's body cues/ reaction
- Try different types of toys

## Where to Buy Toys

- Regular toy stores (i.e.. Toys R Us, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.)
- Specialty stores ( i.e.. Able net, Differently Able Toys, etc.)



## Toy Ideas

- Bubbles
- Books
- Play doh: scented/ unscented
- Textured toys
- Light up toys
- Music/sound
- Soft items (e.g. blankets, stuffed animals, etc.)
- Switch toys/ Adaptive toys
- Etc.

## What to look for in a toy

- Auditory
- Tactile
- Visual
- Cause and Effect
- Multi-Purpose
- Durability
- Cost
- Usage



## How to get the most toys for your money?

- Look for multi purpose toys (lights, sounds, textures)
- Look at how you can adapt the toy
  - Consider: will this be a permanent/ temporary adaptation?
- Are the supplies readily available to adapt
- How long does it take to adapt

## Simple Toy Adaptations

- Look at a toy and imagine
  - Who can play with it
  - How can it be played with
  - How long will it last
- What is the cost



Does the amount of time to adapt it = the value of the adaptation = longevity/ usage of the toy?  
• This is up to you and your budget.

## Toy Adaptations

- Co-Ban
- Velcro
- Hot glue
- Textures
- Foam
- Magnets
- Etc.

Play is for everyone.

We just need to find the right toy  
fit for the child.

Questions