

Why adapt toys?

THE BENEFITS OF ADAPTED TOYS (WITH EXAMPLES)

The goal of adapting toys is to increase participation and engagement with play. Children with motor impairments or other needs may have difficulty operating off-the-shelf toys. Switch adapted toys make it possible for children that have difficulty grasping, reaching, or seeing to independently access the toy.

In general:

- Some children have unique needs and may need toys adapted and modified for them to fully engage in play
- There are many ways that toys can be adapted to meet the specific needs of the child

Importance of play:

- Play is essential for kids and helps develop:
 - Social skills
 - Fine and gross motor skills
 - Communication
 - Creativity
 - Understanding of cause and effect
 - And much more!

GO BABY GO

OREGON

Examples of toy adaptations:



This dinosaur has been adapted by adding a port so that it can be used with a switch. A child is now able to play with the toy by pushing the large switch instead of having to press the original small on/off switch on the dinosaur toy.



This mickey convertible has been adapted with two switches. Adapting a toy with two switches provides additional functions for the toy. Now the child is able to push one switch to move the car forward, and the other switch to move the car backward.

GO BABY GO

OREGON



This is an example of adapted toys without using a switch. These puzzle pieces have been adapted with dowels and PVC pipe to make it easier for a child with limited fine-motor skills to pick up the pieces.

Work closely with your early interventionist, occupational therapist, and/or speech therapist to help determine the most appropriate adaptations for your child based on need and goals.