

Don't Walk Away From That Walking Toy!!

(Gretchen Hanser MS, OTR/L, 6/2002)



Do you have switch adapted walking toys? The pig? The elephant? The dog? The bear? Do your students lose interest with the activity of just turning the toy on and off? To add more purpose and opportunities for engagement, how about incorporating the use of walking toys into typical, daily play and school activities?

Example: Setup a bowling activity using mini bowling pins or blocks; use the walking toy to knock them over OR use the walking toy to push a ball down a ramp! (Linda Burkhart)

Consider increasing the engagement in play even more- by turning it into a 2 switch activity!

Example: Setup a block activity where a peer stacks the blocks and the child uses 1 switch to make the walking toy knock them over. The child uses a 2nd switch attached to a listing device that is recorded with comments such as: "crash!/, uh-oh!, stack them up." (Linda Burkhart)

Consider decreasing the motor demands on the student during these play activities; use a Switch Latch & Timer box so that the student doesn't have to hold the switch down for long periods of time. (Available from Ablenet)

Give walking toys destinations that are a part of play activities:

- ◊ Walk over to pretend to tickle someone
- ◊ Walk to a large switch that activates something else
- ◊ Go pick up a doll/other toy to give them a ride
- ◊ Push a car/truck down a ramp
- ◊ Get pretend food or drink
- ◊ Get a pretend bath

Use accessory kits to allow walking toys to pick up, carry, deliver & pull items to destinations during play activities:

Accessory kits are EASY to make and can give you so many other ways of using your walking toys! Create a walking toy accessory kit with things that are around your classroom!

Wrap a long piece of loop velcro around the walking toy and fasten it on with a short piece of hook velcro.

Attach small pieces of adhesive hook velcro to the following items, so they can be velcroed on to toy:



- ◊ small clear plastic container or mini Pringle's Potato Chip can with lid
- ◊ film cannister with lid
- ◊ clear trade card holder
- ◊ small mini envelope
- ◊ marker
- ◊ pipe cleaner or string-can be used to pull things



Walking toys can be used to act as students' hands to move things around during play or school activities. Can use with REALLY fun play scripts too!

- ◊ Count or categorize and pickup/deliver items such as: manipulatives, money, beans, letters
- ◊ Garbage man/school janitor-pickup trash
- ◊ Dog catcher-pick up and/or deliver lost pets
- ◊ Go pretend shopping-buy or return small items, such as jewelry, makeup, nail polish
- ◊ Deliver and/or pick up crayons/small writing utensils
- ◊ Dump truck-pick up and/or deliver legos or other small manipulatives
- ◊ Pick up and/or deliver secret notes/messages
- ◊ Mailman-pick up and/or deliver mail/small packages
- ◊ Carry and drop off letters that are part of an alphabet game
- ◊ Deliver small snacks (Goldfish, raisins etc.) to dolls/other toys/friends
- ◊ Pizza delivery guy-drop off food
- ◊ Drop off stickers to decorate a page
- ◊ Attach fat marker onto toy for scribbling/decorating
- ◊ Act as tow truck pulling other cars or toys

