

ADAPTIVATION

INCORPORATED

Squeeze and Read

Goal

Finding ways for individuals with disabilities to interact with books is an important component of any literacy program. Here is a fun and easy way to incorporate voice output technology, a single switch and objects into reading.

Materials

- Sequencer
- Pneumatic (puff and sip) Switch
- Book and associated squeeze toy (i.e., the book *Hippos Go Berserk* by Sandra Boynton and a purchased rubber hippo).

Steps

1. To select a message, read and become familiar with the book you intend to use, and decide on the message to be recorded. Here are some suggestions:
 - Record entire text for each page.
 - Paraphrase the text of each page.
 - Record a repetitive line that appears on each page.
 - Record a single keyword from each page.
 - Record music or a sound effect for each page.

Remember, messages must be recorded in the order in which you want them to play back. Write down the message sequence and keep it as a reference.

2. Program the Sequencer:
 - a. Turn on the Sequencer by rotating the VOLUME/POWER knob to mid position.
 - b. Slide the PLAY/RECORD switch to the REC-1 position. This will record the series of messages into Level-1.
 - c. Press and hold the top of the Sequencer. Speak the message clearly. When the message is complete, release. For best results, hold the Sequencer approximately 12 inches from the sound source during recording.
 - d. To record the next message, press and hold again, speak and release. Continue to record in this manner until you have recorded all the messages in the sequence.

To eliminate the clicking sound heard after each message, record messages using a Pal Pad, Flexible Switch or Taction Pad.

3. Plug the Pneumatic Switch into the switch jack of the Sequencer. Attach the rubber toy to the 'puff' output of the switch. Many rubber toys already have a hole in them or a squeaker that can be removed. If the toy being used does not have a hole, you will need to make one. If necessary, the toy can be secured to the switch with tape or Velcro.
4. Open the book to the page associated with the first recorded text. Squeeze the toy to activate the first recorded message. Each additional squeeze of the toy will advance through the message sequence.

Activity Variations

1. A message such as "turn the page" could be recorded. In this case, the user must listen and anticipate when to use the message. The same message would be used throughout the activity.
2. There are books available with squeeze toys built into them. This is common in infant books. If it is difficult to attach the Pneumatic Switch directly to the book, you can attach rubber tubing to the squeeze toy in the book and the other end to the switch. Pushing the squeeze toy will now activate the voice output device.
3. Multiple squeeze toys can be hooked together in a series. Rubber tubing and aquarium T-connectors are needed (you will need a connector for each object). A section of tubing is attached to the switch. A T-connector is then attached to the open end of the tubing. The object is attached to the top of the connector. For each additional object, add a section of tubing and a T-connector.
4. Many containers can be attached to the Pneumatic Switch and activated with a squeeze (i.e., chocolate syrup bottle, water bottle, pop bottle, liquid soap containers, honey bears and squeeze jelly bottles)

Equipment Variations

1. The VoicePal Levels is capable of sequential messaging. This device has several advantages.
 - a. Messages can be recorded in random order. This makes it easier to record using a variety of voices, music and/or sound effects.
 - b. A message from the sequence can be changed without having to re-record the entire sequence of the message.
 - c. A visual cue can accompany each message via the overlay.
 - d. A second switch can be added to allow the last activated message to be repeated or go back to the previous message.
2. The Sequencer can be activated directly by pressing the top. This method of activation may be preferable to using the external switch and object access.
3. The Pneumatic Switch can be used with any voice output device or environmental control that allows external switch access. For example, you might attach the chocolate syrup bottle to the switch and use it to activate the FreeHand controlling the blender during a malt-making activity.