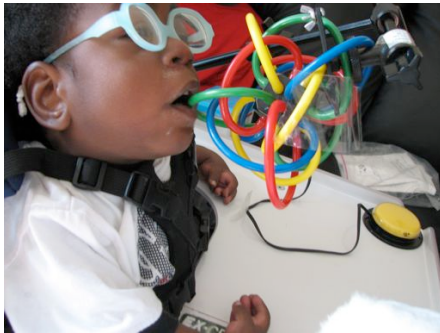


Securing Switches (and Mouth-able toys)

When a young child is not able to use his hands or arms for reaching and holding objects he misses opportunities to mouth objects. Mouthing toys is an important activity for a young child to learn how to use lips, tongue, and jaw as well to relieve teething discomfort. Mouthing toys helps a child prepare for eating more foods safely and making the sounds required for speech. Many children that have had a hard time growing and thriving are found to have problems moving his or her mouth (oral motor).

There are a few mounting systems on the market currently to help a person with limited use of their arms and hands to push a switch with their cheek. These devices can also be helpful in holding a toy for a child to mouth. In these photos a two-year-old uses the Slim Armstrong Mounting System for two different activities. On the left he enjoys exploring a toy with his mouth and in the picture on the right he pushes a switch with his cheek to turn on and off a bunny (a battery operated toy).



More information on these mounting systems can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.ablenetinc.com/cart/Browse.asp?txtSearchString=switches&sbSubmitBtn=SEARCH>

http://www.infogrip.com/product_view.asp?RecordNumber=275&sbcolor=%23FFCC00&option=mounting&subcategory=61&CatTx=Switch&optionxt=Mounting

<http://www.gstsdesigns.com/MountingPowerOptions/Mounting.htm>



Caution: An Occupational therapist and/or Speech and Language therapist with training in feeding/oral motor issues should be consulted in matters of oral motor concerns.

Information compiled by Andrea Story 9-06