



SPLAT NEWSLETTER

Sure Start
City of Edinburgh
Council

Number 7

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Free Web Resources!
- ☺ Using PowerPoint to make personalized resources
- ☺ Free! Plasma play sessions
- ☺ Play@home

Switching for FREE!

SPLAT have been having a little nosy to see what free and fun switch accessible websites are out there for our young switch users. We found the following.....

Northern Grid for Learning: SENSwitcher

<http://www.northerngrid.org/ngflwebsite/sen/NetSwitch/index.htm>

Different levels of switching available from experiential (looking and tracking movement) to several presses to move through a sequence of images

Knee Bouncers

<http://www.kneebouncers.com/>

Cause and effect level switching, encouraging repeated switching and holding the switch down for a different effect

Priory Woods

<http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/resources/videos.htm>

Entertaining simple cause and effect activities, and songs. Great for the child who needs a long reward.

HelpKidzLearn



<http://www.helpkidzlearn.com/games.html>

Inclusive Technology's simple cause and effect website. Lots of example of their software here to try out.

Cbeebies

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games/switch>

These activities are choice making and therefore the child needs to be able to use their switch timing skills for scanning through choices.

You will need either a Key Switch box or USB Switch box interface available from inclusive technology and a switch for your child to access these resources.

Tell us of any switch accessible sites you know about and enjoy and we will pass it on!



Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Switching for Free | 1 |
| Our New Assistant, Barbara | 1 |
| New Toys | 2 |
| Plasma Play Session | 2 |
| Nursery Rhymes and Songs Websites | 3 |
| Play@home | 3 |
| PowerPoint for Single Switch Users | 4 |

Barbara, our lovely new Assistant

Hurray! We have a lovely new Speech and Language Therapy Assistant, Barbara.

She will help us collect our toys in, fix them up and get them back on the shelves

and ready to loan out again.

You might also see her helping out at our Plasma Play Sessions on the second Friday of every month, or when you drop in to ex-

change toys.

Barbara works Wed, Thurs and Fri 9.30 til 2.30pm

NEW TOYS!!!

Come and have a look!! SPLAT have some new toys to add to our collection including:

Disco Lights

MP3 Player with three switches (play, pause and next track)

Cow, Teddy, Dog

Vibration Cushions, bugs and tubes

You can buy your own switch toys if you are looking for ideas for birthday presents, or treats at the following websites or shops:

- Rompa
- Inclusive Technology

Remember we can adapt some simple toys from regular shops, such as:

- Tesco
- Toys R us
- Early Learning Centre

Just phone and ask first!



Plasma Play Session

COME ALONG and try our Plasma Play Session!

The Plasma screen is a special touch sensitive screen that is attached to a computer. We have lots of simple sensory, cause and effect and targeting software to play with. The sessions aim to provide a new and fun experience, plus it's a great



opportunity to exchange SPLAT toys. Siblings are welcome too and the sessions run the second Friday of every month, though do phone to book a place, as sometimes the dates can change.

Next planned dates include:

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 9th April | 2-4pm |
| 14th May | 2-4pm |
| 11th June | 2-4pm |
| 9th July | 2-4pm |

Call our secretary Janet to book a place on 0131 311 7130

Nursery Rhyme Websites

Whilst we were looking for free switchable sites, we also noticed some great nursery song and rhyme websites, which include sound files and some animated images. So if you're not a keen singer, but the little'un loves a song or two try these out.....

<http://www.gardenofsong.com/>

[http://](http://www.teachersandfamilies.com/nursery/index.html)

www.teachersandfamilies.com/nursery/index.html

<http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/index.html>

http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/index.html



Quick tips for early literacy!

- Give children the opportunity to listen to/read a variety of texts, including nursery rhymes
- Re-read favourite books and rhymes over and over to give children ownership of the stories, and establish awareness of familiar language and repetition
- Contextualise learning/reading. This means help the child to see the link between their experiences and the nursery rhyme/story

play@home Training

I went along to the training in February, this is a new project in Edinburgh funded by NHS Health Scotland healthy living. It was for anyone who works with families and children under 5 years in health, local authority or the voluntary sector, to raise awareness of the need to promote physical activity in early childhood. It has been running in Fife for 5 years with positive results.

Our learning outcomes were:

- Increase awareness of the need to promote physical activity
- Awareness of the play@home toolkit handbook
- Opportunity to try some activities from the toolkit handbook
- Explore how this may be applied within our workplace
- Raise awareness of other resources and their availability

The project's anticipated outcomes for the child are:

- A longer life
- Less risk of developing many diseases in later life
- To develop skills involving thinking, moving and socializing
- To strengthen family bonds and communications
- To stimulate curiosity, imagination and creativity
- To promote positive praise and reassurance
- To provide a co-ordinated approach to promote physical activity as fun

The project starts on the 1st March 2010. We all left the training with our handbook, the activities divided into baby birth to 1 yr, toddler 1-3yr olds and pre-school 3-5 yr olds. The information sheets give ideas on planning play sessions, lists to assess a child's level of activity, and activity cards which list the benefits and precautions for each activity. This programme can be carried out on a one to one basis or in a group setting. As part of this project the first Baby book will be handed out to parents of babies born on or after 1st March by their Health Visitor on their first visit to new babies. It's not clear how parents will receive the other stage books, but these will at some point be made available within local libraries for reference.

Barbara Mathieson

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Switch Play Learning and
Technology



The SPLAT Toy Library provides switch adapted toys to young children in Edinburgh.

Switch toys can motivate children to play with toys when:

- Physically they are not able to hold and play with ordinary toys
- They have difficulty attending to ordinary toys

Through play, children can...

...Learn about their world

...Make things happen

...Learn how to get along together and share activities

...Learn to look and listen

...Learn to give attention



COURSE: PowerPoint Resources for Single Switch Users

Keycomm and SPLAT are running a course about how to use PowerPoint to make switch accessible resources for individuals. As it is readily available to most, it is the ideal software to get to grips with to make personally styled and fun cause and effect resources, such as;

- a slideshow of favourite images or photographs,
- a collection of favourite songs, animated songs, rhymes and stories
- a make believe or real life 'diary' activity.

Get your thinking caps on, power-point is only limited by your imagination!

The course will teach the basic skills of PowerPoint including how to add;

- text
- images
- animation
- sound files
- movies

You will need to come with an idea of what you want to create as your slideshow. This should be something that your child is motivated by or interested in, and time will be given during the first session, 22nd March, to make this slideshow. Hopefully you'll have time to practise these skills before you return for our second session, 19th April,

where you will have an opportunity to share your ideas, fine-tune your skills and create a bank of resources to share with the other participants.

This course takes place on 22nd March and 19th April, 1.30-4.30pm at KEYCOMM Resource Centre. You can download a booking form from our website, www.keycommac.ic.org, or alternatively give Janet a call on 0131 311 7130 to book your place!

