

# The Seven Stages of Switch Development

## Information sheet



### Stage 7

Independent in function use (use across multiple software/devices)

Celebrating Syed the Sloth  
Star/Purple (Practical Wisdom)

### Definition

Celebrating Syed is the stage where you will learn to use switches to functionally control multiple software and devices across your day. For example, you can use switches for communication using an AAC device, powered mobility, gaming, browsing the internet, writing and so much more. You will learn how to easily navigate between these different devices and software as well as being able to adjust the settings.

### Milestones

- You've mastered switches, using them accurately and consistently
- You can apply your switch skills across different software and devices
- You actively use switches for communication, gaming, browsing, and more
- You're versatile, using switches at home, school, and in the community
- You troubleshoot any switch issues, making necessary adjustments with confidence
- You're a strong advocate, effectively communicating your switch needs to others



## Top tips for working with switch users



- Keep things interesting for the switch user to maintain their motivation to use switches
- Consider mounting options to ensure their switches are always available on all of their mobility equipment
- Encourage the user to use switches in a variety of settings and situations
- Provide opportunities for the user to practice using switches independently
- Encourage problem-solving and self-determination by allowing the user to choose activities and tasks that they are interested in and can successfully complete using switches
- Ensure you regularly ask for the switch user's opinion on their switches and software and adapt the requirements based on their ideas and likes/dislikes
- Continue to set goals around the switch user's future independence and how they can progress further based on their own interests and aspirations

## Activities

Provide opportunities to develop literacy skills through using a keyboard and spelling

Explore communication software such as Grid 3, Proloquo to Go, etc

Computer access: using switches to access and navigate a computer independently, such as typing or browsing the internet

Environmental control: using switches to control elements in the environment, such as turning on lights or adjusting the temperature

Leisure activities: using switches to engage in leisure activities independently, such as playing games, listening to music, or watching videos.



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