Vermont Assistive Technology Program: 
Switch Access 101 Training

This two-and-a-half-hour (2.5 hour) workshop aims to teach rehab professionals, special educators and other related professionals the basics of switch access. This workshop is split into two parts. The first, addresses the theory of switches. The second part consists of two hands on activities setting up low and mid tech devices with different switches. This workshop aims to give the participants as much hands on time with different switches as possible.

Part 1: What?
Part one explains the theory of switch use and the different types of switches that are available. At the end of this section the participant will be able to:

• Explain what a switch is and why they can increase accessibility.
• Define the differences between electrical and mechanical switches. Identify if a switch is electrical or mechanical.
• Understand the different types of switches that are available on the market based on their actuation method including: Pressure/Plate, Light Touch, Pneumatic, Lever, Touch, Proximity, Sound activated, Fiber optic, Infrared, Piezo Electric Film, Electromyography (EMG).

Some of these types of switches will be available to try out. If you have a particular type of switch you are interested in please let us know in advance and we will try and have this switch available. Please note we do not have access to an EMG switch.

Part 2: But How?
But How? Consists of two hands on activities where participants learn how to switch adapt low and mid tech devices for two case studies.

• “Low tech: Switch adapting a toy.” How to use a battery interrupter; understanding the different types of Jacks; other examples of low-tech switch adaptations.
• “Mid-range tech: Switch adapting household items using a Powerlink.” How to use a switch modifier, other examples of mid tech switch adaptations.

This course does not include the following:

In-depth switch site considerations, iPad and tablet switch access, Scanning, Switch wheelchair control, High tech environmental control via a wheelchair, Switch Mounting. If you are interested in attending a training on any of these topics please let us know.
Vermont Assistive Technology Program: Switch Access 101 Training

Training Details

- Date: Thursday October 10th, 2019.
- Time: 10am-12:30pm.
- Location: Vermont Assistive Technology Program, Waterbury A.T. Tryout Center, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671. Parking is available.
- Cost: $45.
- 8 Spaces available.

RSVP: bethan.rowlands@partner.vermont.gov or call 1-800-750-6355. If you require accommodations such as captioning, large print handouts, or digital copies of products in advance, please include your request when you RSVP.

If you are interested in this training but you are unable to attend, please email us as there will be other opportunities to attend this training.

Schedule:

10:00 -10:05: Course Introduction.

10:05-10:10: What is a switch.


10:20-10:50: Review of the different types of switches (Pressure/Plate, Light Touch, Pneumatic, Lever, Touch, Proximity, Sound activated, Fiber optic, Infrared, Piezo Electric Film (detects vibration), Sensory Muscle activity).

Break 10 Minutes.

11:00-11:30: Activity Two: Low tech: Switch adapting a toy.

11:30-- 12:00: Activity Three: Mid-range tech: Switch adapting household items using a Powerlink.

12:00 - 12:15: Other considerations for switches.

12:15 - 12:30: Questions.