

## Touching and moving

# Tactual exploration



### Activity: Operating switches

Operating action-reaction switches or talking buttons.

### Set-up of the activity

The use of switches is very common to stimulate action-reaction and to turn on music or moving toys. Switches also allow clients to listen to recorded text. Because the switches are smooth, it is useful to make them distinguishable by sticking a tangible texture on them (i.e., bubble wrap, corduroy or self-adhesive felt).

0-2

- Place a switch near the client's hand. Make sure that the switch activates something when pressed, such as a toy that makes a sound or a recorded word. Explore the switch together with the client and press the switch together.
- Observe whether the client searches for the switch, finds it and presses it independently.
- Change the location of the switch and press it to get the activity going. Check whether the client starts searching for the object or the switch.

2-4

- Take the activity a step further when the client understands that something happens by pressing the switch. Stimulate the client to press a switch that feels less pleasant.
- When the client understands that pressing a switch activates something, start offering the client two switches that activate two different actions.

4-6

- See the set-up in the previous age categories.

### Points for observation and focus

- Observe how the client feels his way in the environment to find the switch.
- Check which size the switch needs to be in order for the client to find it.
- Check whether the client understands that he activates something by pressing the switch.

### Alternative materials

- Give the client a cassette recorder or a different type of portable music player with buttons that are easy to operate. Make the buttons tangible.
- If the client has sufficient hand function, let him touch a touchscreen on a tablet to put on music in an app.

### Can also be used in the categories

- Touch sensitivity (TST)