

Simple Ways to Adapt Toys & Equipment

Fine Motor

- Attach wooden beads to make small puzzle knobs larger.
- Wooden beads also make good grips on pull toys.
- Replace small game pieces for board games with larger items so they are easier to hold and move.
- Modify dress-up clothing with larger buttons (and buttonholes) or Velcro.
- Add dycem in the bottom of a cookie sheet or tray to provide a non-slip surface for small manipulatives.
- Cookie sheets, placemats or trays can also be used to define children's boundaries with table top toys.
- To teach stringing beads:
 - Use pipe cleaners instead of string.
 - Dip string in glue and let it dry to create a stiff thread.
 - Tape one end of the string to the table.
- Glue magnets to small toys and blocks, and then use them on metal cookie sheets.

Gross Motor

- Make a ball pit by placing small plastic hollow balls into a wading pool.
- Use hula hoops to define each child's personal space during movement activities.
- Consider purchasing adapted pedals to attach to tricycles.
- Attach a gardener's kneepad to each inside corner of the sandbox to provide back support.

Art

- For children with an aversion to finger-paint, place thick paint in a large zip-closure baggie and allow the child to use his finger or a popsicle stick to draw designs over the surface (this can also be done with playdough).
- Use contact paper for the base of a collage project. Tape the contact paper to the table, sticky side up, so the child can simply drop collage materials onto it.