

## **Assistive Technology Solutions for Switches and Voice Output Devices:**

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Whether to say “Hello,” “Good-bye” or something more, a child with complex communication needs, that might not use speech, needs a way to communicate. One Assistive Technology Solution is to use a voice output device (also called a voice output communication aid or ‘VOCA’). There are many ways to record a voice and allow a non-verbal person to have a voice that is understood by everyone around them. Below are some resources and information about some of the simple, low-tech, voice output communication devices available. Keep in mind also, that how a person accesses a switch will play a significant role in how well they will be able to use the switch. If the switch is placed in the wrong place, making it difficult to touch, or if it is the wrong kind of switch, say maybe it’s too hard to push, then the person will not be successful in using that communication device. Make sure to work with a knowledgeable person when using a switch. Either your Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, or an Assistive Technology Specialist should be able to help with types of switches and placement.

To learn more about switches, the different types available, how they are accessed and how they work, as well as where to buy them, see the document: [General Info about Switches.](#)

To learn more about some different strategies for using a voice output switch and make it more meaningful to the person using it, see the document: [“Strategies for Using Voice Output Devices found here.](#)