Adaptation Projects: Questions to ask yourself
SPED 535
Summer, 2004

1. Is it an adaptation? Or, is it simply materials development? Make sure it is an adaptation!

2. Is there a need for the adaptation? What's the problem?

3. Does the adaptation appear to meet the person's need(s)? Does it do what you said it would do?

4. What is the level of difficulty involved in making this adaptation? It does not have to be super complex, however some things are too simple to warrant giving you a grade (e.g., putting a large ring on the zipper of a coat) in comparison to other projects. Check with me if you are unsure of the level of difficulty (either too simple or too hard).

5. Is it sturdy/durable? Can someone yank, bend, push, or pull it without it coming apart? If sewn, will the seams unravel or rip apart? If glued, is it on to stay? If there is Velcro, is it on to stay? Or, can you substantiate the person for whom this adaptation is made doesn’t have the strength, range of motion, or access to the item to “destroy” it.

6. Is it smooth? Could someone detect any rough edges? Do you have the smooth side of the Velcro where it will touch the person?

7. Have you used nontoxic materials?

8. Is it attractive and/or age-appropriate?

9. Can it be washed (and still stay together)?

10. Is it drool-proof? Not everything needs to be laminated, but it might be necessary.

11. Was it cost-effective to make? Spending a lot is not necessarily the ticket to a good grade. I’m a recycle, reuse, dollar store, thrift store, garage sale kind of teacher.

12. Is it safe for the intended user?

13. Is it too heavy, too large, and/or too big for the age and disability of person you have described?
I. No more than one project may be related to building up a handle. One of the projects can be computer/switch related.

II. The write-up for each project will involve answering all of the following questions.
   A. What is the device or adaptation?
   B. Where did you get the idea/directions for this adaptation? If the adaptation is an original idea, please include directions or a picture.
   C. Describe the person who will use the adaptation. Make note of their current mobility skills, cognitive level, communication level, age, and present environment(s).
   D. Why did you think this particular adaptation would solve the problem? What purpose will it serve for the person you described above.
   E. When/where would the person use the adaptation? Why would the person want to use (i.e., motivation) this adaptation?
   F. Are there any additional uses for this particular adaptation?

IV. Submit the write-up along with your project. The write-up is worth approximately 10 of the total 20 points.

V. Show and tell your device during class (briefly – 30 seconds or less). I will need to keep the item to grade. Turn the item in a clearly labeled envelope or bag.

Adaptation Project #1 (Domestic)

Develop a low-tech adaptation to serve the needs of a person engaged in a self-help or domestic skill/activity.

20 points possible  DUE: July 26, 2004

Adaptation Project #2 (Academic/vocational)

Develop a low-tech adaptation to serve the needs of a person engaged in either a vocational or academic/communication skill/activity.

20 points possible  DUE: July 27, 2004

Adaptation Project #3 (Rec/leisure)

Develop a low-tech adaptation to serve the needs of a person engaged in a recreation/leisure skill/activity.

20 points possible  DUE: July 29, 2004