

Toys are selected for their recreational and educational value. For example, a large inflatable beach ball is a good water toy; it encourages interactive play and can be used to learn motor skills, such as balance, rocking, kicking, and throwing. Attractive toys encourage a child to reach, therefore assisting in the development of motor skills (see [Fig. 18-2](#)). Musical toys that mimic animal sounds or respond with social phrases are excellent ways of encouraging speech. A doll with removable clothes and different types of closures can help the child learn dressing skills. Toys should be simple in design so that the child can learn to manipulate them without help. For children with severe cognitive and physical impairment, electronic switches can be used to allow them to operate toys ([Figs. 18-3](#) and [18-4](#)).



**FIG 18-3** A manual switch allows a child with cognitive impairment (CI) to play with a battery-operated toy.