

physical limitations, several adaptations or types of communication devices are available to facilitate selection of the appropriate picture or word (Fig. 18-5). Some children may be taught sign language or **Blissymbols**—a highly stylized system of graphic symbols representing words, ideas, and concepts. Although the symbols require education to learn their meaning, no reading skill is required. The symbols are typically arranged on a board, and the person points or uses some type of selector to convey a message.



FIG 18-5 A child with cognitive and physical impairments can activate electronic and communication equipment by moving a device near her head.

Establish Discipline

Discipline must begin early. Limit-setting measures need to be simple, consistently applied, and appropriate for the child's mental age. Control measures are based primarily on teaching a specific behavior rather than on understanding the reasons behind it. Stressing moral lessons is of little value to a child who lacks the cognitive skills to learn from self-criticism or evaluation of previous mistakes. Behavior modification, especially reinforcement of desired actions, and use of time-out procedures are appropriate forms of behavior control.