



Moving, Learning, and Socializing: How to Adapt a Toy Car for Children with Physical Disabilities.

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Course Description

Independent mobility is an important milestone in a child's life and can pave the way towards overall independence and development of spatial cognition, emotional skills, and self-awareness, (1 Kuntzler, 2013; 2 Teft, Guerette, and Furumasu, 2007). In children with physical disabilities who may be non-ambulatory this can present as a challenge as they are limited in their ability to explore their environments. The effects of restricted mobility during early childhood have been shown to lead to a pattern of apathetic behavior, specifically a lack of curiosity and initiative (3 Butler, 1986). There is a strong connection between self-initiated mobility and overall development. Mobility is associated with the development and acquisition of important visual, cognitive, social and perceptual skills (4 Anderson et al., 2013; 5 Bornstein et al., 2013). Mobility has also been shown to impact cognitive and language development (6 Jones, McEwen, & Neas, 2012; 7 Lynch, Ryu, Agrawal, & Galloway, 2009) social participation (8. Bray, Noyes, Edwards, & Harris, 2014) and ultimately independence. Currently, there are few options, that are appropriate, that can facilitate self-initiated mobility for infants and young children with mobility impairments. This workshop will present current evidence to support the need for early pediatric mobility as well as facilitate a discussion among the participants on the barriers and facilitators to the provision of mobility in pediatric practice.

This workshop will demonstrate how current evidence in early paediatric mobility influences current practice and how this contributes to the greater understanding of how this may shape the development of a child. This workshop will introduce the Go Baby Go concept, present results of studies using the go baby go concept as an intervention and provide a hands-on experience adapting a ride on toy car for a child.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Examine the importance of early paediatric mobility on overall occupational performance
- Support the need for early provision of mobility equipment utilising current evidence
- Discuss the advantages of providing independent mobility for children from 0 to 6 years of age
- Consider how the Go Baby Go concept can influence current practice
- Learn how to modify the electronics of the ride-on toy car
- Perform an assessment of the child's needs to adapt the ride-on toy car
- Modify a ride-on toy car using PVC pipes, pool floats and other inexpensive materials
- Learn the basics of launching Go Baby Go in their community including online resources
- Summarize the benefits of the Go Baby Go as an early mobility intervention: application, analysis, evaluation and synthesis