EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

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Our Story

- Kids with Level IV and V CP can drive
- Use a universal platform
- Start with a single switch (stop/go)
- Start early (9-15 mos)

Driving Makes Kids Smarter

Kermoian R, Campos JJ.
Locomotor experience: a facilitator of spatial cognitive development.
Child Dev 1988
Aug;59(4):908-17

Driving Makes Kids Smarter

Children who move through space independently score higher on tests of cognition

Driving Makes Kids Smarter

Christine A. Wright-Ott, MPA, OTR
Richard J. Escobar, ATP and Sharon Leslie, MS, PT
Encouraging Exploration
Rehab Management July 2002
Kids who were exposed to power mobility were more interactive with their peers and the environment.

Smart kids drive better

The smarter the kid, the easier it will be to teach them to drive. We like a good challenge.

Driving Makes Kids Smarter

- Six kids age 23-38 months
- Learned to drive in 3 weeks
- Measured self-initiated interaction with objects, spatial exploration and communication with caregiver
- Kids rocked

Smart kids drive better

Cognitive predictors of young children's readiness for powered mobility.
Teft D, Guerette P, Furumasa J.

It's Possible to Train Severely Involved Kids to Drive

A microcomputer-aided mobility training program for the multiply handicapped.
Zanier,-Diane-J; McPhail,-Paul-J; Voelker,-Sylvia-L

Driving Makes Kids Smarter

Butler C.
Effects of Powered Mobility on self-initiated behaviors of very young children with locomotor disability
Dev Med Child Neurol 1986 Jun;28(3):325-32
It's Possible to Train Severely Involved Kids to Drive

It's the Level IV and V kids that need power the most - they have no other options!

A test to determine who is ready to drive

Jan Furumasu, Paula Guerette, Donita Tefft

The development of a powered wheelchair mobility program for young children

Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center. 7601 EImperial Highway - CART, Downey, CA 90242, USA

A test to determine who is ready to drive

Put a lot of stock in your gut instinct and the twinkle in the kid’s eye

Really Little Kids Can Drive

Tefft D, Guerette P, Furumasu J.

Cognitive predictors of young children's readiness for powered mobility.


Eval forms
Annotated bibliography
Letter of Medical Necessity
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Really Little Kids Can Drive

Start training and exposure at 15-20 months of age
Really Little Kids Can Drive

Dietz J, Swinth Y, White O.

Powered mobility and preschoolers with complex developmental delays.


Even little kids with severe cognitive delays need to begin training and exposure early.

Really Little Kids Can Drive

Kids Learned to Drive in 1.7-12 hours!

Butler C, Okamoto GA, MaKay TM

Powered Mobility for very young disabled children


Kids Learn to Drive in 1.7-12 hours!

Kids aged 20-39 months learned to drive at home with parental supervision. Parents reported increased social, emotional and intellectual behavior

It may take some time

Butler C, Okamoto GA, MaKay TM

Motorized wheelchair driving by disabled children.


It may take some time

- 13 kids age 20-37 months learned to drive at home with their parents.
- Specific skills were identified and measured. Sometimes it took up to 43 days, but all were successful.
- Start/stop and circling were the first skills gained in most kids.
**Take Home Message**

- Power Mobility for Children (even the very young and/or severely involved) is an evidence-based practice.

**What’s the Point?**

- Raise Your Expectations
- Demand More
- Keep Moving
- Break Down Your Dreams Into Measurable Chunks and Go For It

**Power Mobility Works on A Continuum**

- Start Simple
- Promote Progress
- Keep It Interesting

**Benefits of the Turtle Trainer**

- Seating and Positioning Issue Is Eliminated
- Access Set-ups Are User Friendly
- Storage Space is Simplified
Panda on Quantum
• One system fits most

Fun Training Strategies
• Scavenger Hunts
• Obstacle courses
• Hide and Seek
• Follow the Leader
• Go on Outings
• Pop Balloons