Wheelchair Safety

To push a child up a ramp, the caregiver should move in a forward direction.

To push a child down a ramp, the caregiver should tilt the chair backward to 30 degrees. Then, ease the chair down the ramp in a forward direction. If the ramp is steep, negotiate the ramp going from side to side to control speed.

GOING UP STEPS: A **minimum of two people** should be used when taking a wheelchair up steps. Position the chair squarely at the foot of the steps with its back toward the steps. Place one foot up on the first step, and pull the chair up by straightening your legs. The second person stands in front of the chair and assists by holding the front frame of the wheelchair (do NOT use the footbed).

When going down steps, the chair should be tipped back and moved to the edge of the step. The pusher controls the descent of the chair by bending the knees. The second person stands in front of the chair and steadies the chair by holding the front frame (do NOT use the footbed).

Be watchful and ensure that the child’s elbows are not going to be bumped going through a doorway or that the child’s hands are not placed on the hand rims.

(Bolding, Adler, Tipton-Burton, Verran, and Lillie, 2013)
The chest harness should be firm enough to support the trunk and must allow enough space to breathe properly.

Seat Belt
Always use seat belt. The seat belt should help position the pelvis in a neutral position allowing maximum...

Abductor Block
The abductor block keeps the legs aligned with the pelvis.

Foot Bed
The feet should rest firmly on the foot bed to provide support for lower extremities.

The therapeutic tray provides upper body support as well as a platform to use for feeding, work, and play.

Ankle Supports
Ankle supports stabilize and position the feet while still allowing controlled movement.

Hip Guides
Hip guides facilitate thigh alignment, stabilize sitting posture, and prevent hip abduction. They can help with centralizing the pelvis on the seat cushion.