

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).

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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.

Adjustable Parts

Head Support

The head support should provide enough support to enable the child to balance without preventing the child's ability to shift position to engage in functional activities.

The top of seat back cushion and chest harness straps should be even with tops of shoulders.

Chest Harness

The chest harness should be firm enough to support the trunk and must allow enough space to breathe properly.

Seat Back Cushion

The seat back cushion should be firm while not impeding the ability for the child to use his or her hands.

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.

Seat Cushion (depth adjustment)

Seat Cushion should provide firm support under the pelvis and thighs to encourage a neutral pelvic position.

Leave 1 to 2" of space between front of seat and back of knees

Trunk Supports

The trunk supports help maintain an erect upper body. A 1 to 3" space between trunk support and arm pit helps prevent the child from having skin irritation and breakdown.

1" - 3"

Therapeutic Tray

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

Foot Bed

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

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.

