**POWER MOBILITY CHECKLIST FOR HOME, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY USE**





**EXPLORATORY LEARNERS**

Child’s Name: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Date(s): **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Exploratory learners** are children who are learning to explore and enjoy movement through use of a power mobility device; this may be a ride-on toy, a specialized power mobility device or a power wheelchair. They are learning the connection between the switch or joystick and independent movement (i.e., cause/effect) and have yet to develop an awareness of obstacles or the need to maneuver for obstacle avoidance. They require *constant assistance* and *very close supervision* from an adult to be safe. Explorers are not ‘learning to drive’ but they are ‘driving to learn’ through movement experience. It is anticipated that they will require ongoing, long-term training and will use the power mobility device only in limited safe environments.

**THE FOLLOWING GOALS MAY BE RELEVANT FOR YOUR CHILD AT THIS TIME**

**THERAPIST: REVIEW & CHECK  THOSE THAT APPLY.**

Goals that may be appropriate for your child at this time:

* Maintain upright head position
* Look in the direction of movement
* Maintain contact with switch or joystick
* Release switch or joystick to stop
* Understand cause-effect (i.e., *they* are making the device move)
* Move the power mobility device in more than one direction
* Recognize obstacles

**Amount of Supervision**

The child should only use the power mobility device under **close and constant supervision** of a trained adult (***adult*** ***to be within arm’s reach at all times***). The supervising adult should walk closely beside the child and should be directly next to the joystick/switch(es), attendant control and/or emergency stop button. They should be prepared to assist immediately if safety becomes a concern. The supervising *adult takes full responsibility* to *ensure* *safety* of the child and others. The supervising adult should be prepared to ***devote their full attention*** ***to the child*** ***and their safety*** while the child is seated in the power mobility device. This includes anticipating the actions of others nearby and keeping the environment free from hazards.

**INDOOR OPERATION & USE**

**Check**  **only the 1 most-appropriate selection:**

* The child is not yet ready to drive indoors.

**OR**

* The child is learning to drive indoors in safe, open spaces like a large room, gym or wide hallway (when there is little distraction or obstacles).

**NOTE for Indoor Use:**

The child should only use the power mobility device in a **safe environment** free from hazards (e.g., no open stairs, no hazards at head height such as tables or shelves).

**OUTDOOR OPERATION & USE**

**Check**  **only the 1 most-appropriate selection:**

* The child is not yet ready to drive outdoors.

**OR**

* The child is learning to drive outdoors in open spaces with **flat, even terrain**, like a wide driveway or play space in the school yard (when there is little distraction or obstacles).

**NOTE for Outdoor Use:**

The child should only use the power mobility device in a **safe environment** free from hazards (e.g., no curbs or sharp edges to driveway or path, no open sets of stairs or ramps).

|  |
| --- |
| **Battery Charging Routine** |
| Where: |  |
| When: |  |
| Who: |  |
| **Safe Power Mobility Device Storage Location When Not In Use** |
| Where: |  |
| Owner’s manual location: |  |
| **Person Responsible for Coordinating:** | **Contact:** |
| Maintenance: |  |  |
| Repairs: |  |  |
| Review of fit:  |  |  |
| Vendor:  |  |  |

**Power Mobility Device Owner’s Manual & Maintenance Information:**

Supervisors should have access to the owner’s manual (i.e., a copy of manual or an online link through the manufacturer’s website) and be instructed to review the information on how to charge and maintain the power mobility device.

Following safe driving recommendations is important for the goal of safe and enjoyable power mobility use. Please refer to the **‘**[**Supervisors’ Guide for Safe Driving for All Power Mobility Learners’**](http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/Libraries/Wheeled_Mobility/SupervisorsGuideSafePMDriving2020.sflb.ashx) **for additional information.**

The safety information was reviewed by the therapist, with the child and the following adults: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Therapist Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Next review should occur (date): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**It is important to personalize this information to the child’s situation with your therapist’s input to determine what is best for the child.** This resource has been developed by a team of occupational therapists at Sunny Hill Health Centre. The information included in this handout is based on current (2020) research and expert clinical opinion. **Please contact your therapist if you have any questions or concerns.**

**Additional Resources:**

Other pediatric power mobility resources can be found on the Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children website: <http://www.childdevelopment.ca/Home.aspx> under the Wheeled Mobility button and then the Power Mobility heading. Information is also found here: [http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/PowerMobility/](http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/PowerMobility/pm_Assessment.aspx)

The Assessment of Learning Powered Mobility Use (ALP) gives a good description of the progression for learning power mobility use:

<http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/Libraries/Pdfs/ALP_instrument_version_2_0.sflb.ashx>

Nilsson and Durkin, the authors of the ALP, have also created a resource of learning strategies aimed at each phase of learning on the ALP:

<http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/Libraries/Pdfs/ALP_Strategies_Version_2_0.sflb.ashx>

Additional ideas for power mobility training can be found here:

<http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/Libraries/Pdfs/Power_Mobility_Training_Ideas_for_Children.sflb.ashx>

More detailed information on wheelchair use and training can be found here (the book in our SHERC library is available for short-term loan):

<http://www.wheelchairnet.org/wcn_prodserv/Docs/PWTG/PDF/PWTG%20Excerpts.pdf>

Information on Batteries can be found here:

<http://www.seatingandmobility.ca/Libraries/Pdfs/Power_Chair_Batteries_handout.sflb.ashx>

Information of Maintenance can be found here:

<http://www.iwheel.ca/>