

Children's Mobility Equipment

There are many factors to consider when choosing a mobility device for children. Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists are trained health professionals who are able to advise regarding the most suitable mobility device for an individual. It is advised that you consult with such therapists for guidance when selecting a mobility aid.



POSTERIOR WALKERS

A posterior walker has the frame at the sides and around the back of a child and it encourages a more upright position. They may have two wheels and two stoppers so that the walker moves slowly, or four wheels with ratcheted rear wheels to stop backward movement.



TRAINER WALKERS

Trainer walkers provide additional support that a child may require to maintain correct balance and posture for walking. Some styles may not encourage the ideal gait but can provide a degree of independence for the child. Specialist advice is required for these devices as they must be set up correctly for the user.



ANTERIOR WALKERS

An anterior walker has the frame at the sides and the front of the child. These may be similar to adult models but are obviously smaller. As with posterior walkers, these walkers may have four wheels or two wheels on the front and two stoppers on the back. Some can fold for storage or transportation.



BUGGIES AND PUSHCHAIRS

A wide range of buggies and pushchairs are on the market offering diverse options including:

- One-piece stroller buggies that fold to a compact, lightweight, easy to transport package.
- Specialised prams with additional postural supports and higher load capacities.
- Pushchairs with a separate seat and mobility base that can be pulled apart for transport. They may also incorporate a growth system, reclining back, tilt in space and additional postural supports.
- Three wheeled jogger and all terrain buggies, some with seating, others with removable shell seating and other postural support accessories.

MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS

There is a large range of wheelchairs on the market including standard and lightweight wheelchairs. Some adult chairs are available in smaller sizes for children.



Attendant Propelled Wheelchairs have small back wheels and are used when the individual cannot push themselves. Self Propelling wheelchairs have large rear wheels.

Some wheelchairs have an adjustable frame so the chair can “grow” with the child. A folding frame allows the wheelchair to be folded for transportation. A rigid frame may be a little lighter and the backrest may fold down to make transportation easier.



One factor in choosing a wheelchair is the method by which the child transfers into the chair. The footplates may need to be flipped up or away for a standing transfer or may need to be stable enough to provide support for the feet when completing a sliding transfer.

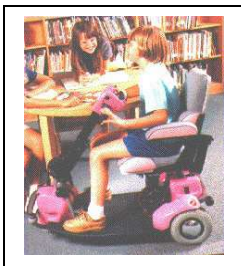
Height and angle adjustable push handles can make pushing the wheelchair easier for adults.



As with adult wheelchairs there is a limited range of children’s wheelchairs featuring reclining backrests, tilt-in-space seats and front wheel drive. A range of different seats, backrests, headrests, armrests and harnesses can be incorporated into a wheelchair to provide additional support.

POWERED WHEELCHAIRS

Powered wheelchairs have a rechargeable battery and are generally used by a child who has limited ability to self-propel. They may have an adult sized base with a smaller seat, so that only the seat needs to be changed as the child grows, or be a smaller chair overall. A range of specialised seating options are available to customise a powered wheelchair to a child’s specific needs.



Scoters also have a rechargeable battery and are generally used by a child who finds it hard to walk long distances. They are used primarily outdoors but can be used indoors if there is adequate space to turn. They generally provide less support than powered wheelchairs and are mostly used by children who are able to get on/off the seat by themselves.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec Queensland for further details.

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BRISBANE
 Level One, Reading Newmarket
 Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads
 (PO Box 3241), Newmarket Qld 4051
 Phone: 07 3552 9000 or 1300 885 886
 Facsimile: 07 3552 9088

LifeTec Queensland
 Email: mail@lifetec.org.au
 www.lifetec.org.au
 Independent Living Centre
 Association of Queensland
 Incorporated trading as LifeTec
 Queensland ABN 25 773 960 273

TOWNSVILLE
 Shop G-3A, Domain Central
 103 Duckworth Street
 (PO Box 8280), Garbutt, Townsville Qld 4814
 Phone: 07 4759 5600
 Facsimile: 07 4759 5688

