

H O W   D O   I   K N O W   ?



DOES MY CHILD NEED A  
NEW WHEELCHAIR VS  
MODIFICATIONS?

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# CUSTOM WHEELCHAIRS FOR GROWING CHILDREN: NEW VS. MODIFICATIONS

NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF CUSTOM WHEELCHAIRS FOR A GROWING CHILD CAN BE COMPLEX. AS CHILDREN DEVELOP, THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS CHANGE, AND THEIR MOBILITY EQUIPMENT MUST ADAPT ACCORDINGLY.

THIS GUIDE AIMS TO CLARIFY WHEN A CHILD MIGHT NEED A COMPLETELY NEW CUSTOM WHEELCHAIR VERSUS WHEN MODIFICATIONS TO THEIR EXISTING CHAIR ARE SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR GROWTH.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT  
THE DECISION TO MODIFY OR REPLACE A WHEELCHAIR SHOULD ALWAYS BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS. THIS TEAM TYPICALLY INCLUDES:

- REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIER (RTS/ATP): A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL WHO SPECIALIZES IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND CAN ASSESS THE CHAIR'S CURRENT FIT AND POTENTIAL FOR ADJUSTMENT.
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (OT) OR PHYSICAL THERAPIST (PT): THESE THERAPISTS UNDERSTAND THE CHILD'S FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES, POSTURAL NEEDS, AND HOW THE CHAIR IMPACTS THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION.
- PHYSICIAN: TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CONTEXT AND APPROVE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.

REGULAR REASSESSMENTS (AT LEAST ANNUALLY, OR MORE FREQUENTLY DURING GROWTH SPURTS) ARE CRUCIAL TO ENSURE THE WHEELCHAIR CONTINUES TO MEET THE CHILD'S EVOLVING NEEDS, PROMOTE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT, AND PREVENT SECONDARY COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS PRESSURE SORES OR MUSCULOSKELETAL DEFORMITIES.

# CONCLUSION

THE CHOICE BETWEEN MODIFYING AN EXISTING CUSTOM WHEELCHAIR AND ACQUIRING A NEW ONE FOR A GROWING CHILD DEPENDS ON A MULTITUDE OF FACTORS, PRIMARILY THE EXTENT OF THE CHILD'S GROWTH RELATIVE TO THE CHAIR'S ADJUSTABILITY, CHANGES IN THEIR MEDICAL CONDITION, AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS. WHILE MODIFICATIONS CAN EXTEND THE LIFE OF A CHAIR AND ARE OFTEN MORE ECONOMICAL, THERE COMES A POINT WHEN A NEW, PROPERLY FITTED CUSTOM WHEELCHAIR BECOMES ESSENTIAL FOR THE CHILD'S COMFORT, SAFETY, INDEPENDENCE, AND LONG-TERM HEALTH. ALWAYS CONSULT WITH A QUALIFIED TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS TO MAKE THE MOST INFORMED DECISION FOR YOUR CHILD.

PARAGRAPH TEXT

## Custom Wheelchair Journey Timeline

