

Case Study 1: Serena

Child's age, weight, height

2 1/2 year old female, 39.2 pounds, 41 inches

Medical Diagnosis/condition

Autism

Reason for referral

The family was referred to the Occupational Therapist on staff by their family physician due to Serena escaping from her car safety seat. Serena had outgrown her car safety seat with a harness and the family did not have funds to purchase another car safety seat for their child.

Current child safety restraint

The family did not feel it was safe when she escaped her car safety seat so they made a makeshift car seat harness. They used a leash designed to keep children near their parents and tied it to the steel frame of the vehicle seat and used the lap belt to secure Serena.

Other child passengers and restraints

Serena's sister was 14 months old and was being transported in a car safety seat that had expired.

Vehicle Year, Make and Model

1992, Chevy Conversion Van

Child's Seating Position in Vehicle: D=driver OC=other child

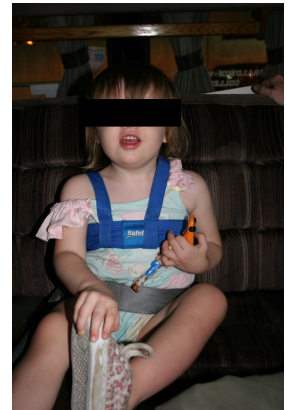
D		
OC		Serena

Vehicle Issues

Locking clips were required for child restraint installations.

Evaluation

Serena is ambulatory and has good head, neck and trunk control. She has cognitive delays which affect her reasoning regarding safety. Although the family made an effort to keep Serena restrained, the makeshift system was very unsafe.



Child improperly restrained using a child leash.

Outcome

Both children were issued car safety seats that met federal standards. Serena was issued the Airway car safety seat with a harness that can be used up to 50 pounds. Her sibling received a convertible child safety seat.

Child appropriately restrained in car safety seat

