

## Case Study 2: Ali and Corey

### **Child's age, weight, height**

Ali and Corey are brother and sister. Ali is 4 years old and Corey is 2 ½ years old. Ali weighs 44 pounds and Corey weighs 39 ½ pounds.

### **Medical Diagnosis/condition**

Both have a diagnosis of moderate mental retardation.

### **Reason for referral**

Parents report that both children attempt to escape from their car safety seats. The parents also reported that Corey cried every time he rode in his car seat.

### **Current child safety restraint**

Both children were being transported in car safety seats with a 5 point harness, which was only approved to 40 pounds. The parents had been using plastic ties to keep the harnesses together to prevent the children from escaping their child safety seats.



*Misuse Example: Used plastic tie to prevent child from getting out of car seat.*

### **Other child passengers and restraints**

None

### **Vehicle, Year, Make and Model**

1992, Chevy Camero

### **Child's Seating Position in Vehicle D=driver**

<b>D</b>		
<b>Corey</b>		<b>Ali</b>

### **Vehicle Issues**

None

### **Evaluation**

Both siblings had outgrown the maximum weight for their current seats and were too young and/or developmentally immature to graduate to belt positioning boosters. Due to their mental retardation both Corey and Ali have decreased safety awareness and decreased ability to understand verbal directions. When Corey saw the new seat, he cried.

**Outcome**

Both children were issued car safety seats with harnesses that can be used up to 50 pounds so they can continue to be transported safely. Prior to fitting Corey in the new car safety seat, he was given time to get used to it. The OT played with Corey next to the car seat; stuffed animals were placed in the seat and stickers were used to help Corey become comfortable with the new seat. Corey sat in the seat for brief periods with positive reinforcement provided. After Corey felt comfortable with the car safety seat, it was installed in the family vehicle



*Occupational therapist with children in seats with higher weight harnesses.*