

### Case Study 3: Thad

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

6 year old male, 41 pounds, 41.6 inches

#### **Medical Diagnosis/condition**

Cerebral Palsy

#### **Reason for Referral**

Thad (far left in picture) was referred to the Occupational Therapist on staff by his physician due to his lack of neck and trunk control.

#### **Current child safety restraint**

Thad's current safety restraint was a combination seat with a five point harness to 40 pounds.

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

Thad's two brothers ages 4 (42 pounds) and 10 (50 pounds) were also being transported in the vehicle. Thad's 4 year-old brother was also seated in a combination seat with a five point harness to 40 pounds. His 10- year old brother was seated in the center seat with a lap belt only.



*Children in outboard positions over the weight limit for their 5 point harnesses; child in center in lap only belt*

#### **Vehicle's year, make and model**

1990, Ford Explorer

#### **Child's Seating Position in Vehicle D=driver; Other child=OC**

<b>D</b>		
<b>OC</b>	<b>OC</b>	<b>Thad</b>

#### **Vehicle Issues**

The space in the back seat of the vehicle was limited and did not have headrests.

#### **Evaluation**

During a previous OT evaluation a specialized car seat was deemed necessary for Thad due to his lack of muscle tone in his trunk, upper extremities and neck. However, funding was denied for an adaptive car seat and therefore Thad required a seat that could meet his needs during the appeal process. Upon evaluation of Thad's child safety restraint it was noted that he was being transported in a combination seat which is only approved to 40 pounds.

**Outcome**

Thad and his 4 year-old brother were both issued an Airway safety seat, which has a five point harness to 50 pounds. Supplemental lateral support was provided for Thad in the form of a rolled towel. His 4 year old brother was moved to the middle seating position since it had a lap only belt, which could be used to install the Airway. Thad's older brother was moved to an outboard position in a high back booster (the vehicle did not have a head rest) with a lap/shoulder belt.



*All children secured properly.*