

Case Study 6: Timmy

Child's age, weight, height

6 year-old male, 50 pounds, 46 inches

Medical Diagnosis/condition

Cerebral Palsy

Reason for referral

Timmy's physician wanted him assessed for a restraint that would provide more support.

Current child safety restraint

Timmy and his family use a public transportation system offered to low income families to travel to the hospital for Medicaid appointments. He is currently restrained with a lap only belt in the middle of the farthest back seat, with his mother sitting next to him for support.

Other child passengers and restraints

Thomas's younger brother is also only using a lap/shoulder belt while being transported.

Vehicle Year, Make and Model

1995 Chevy Public Transportation Van

Child's Seating

Position in Vehicle

D=driver

OC=other child

M+child's name=child moved

D		
M Timmy		OC
	Timmy	



Child in large medical seat temporarily tethered to back seat belt.

Vehicle Issues

Since the van is not the family vehicle, different drivers and lack of tether anchors became factors.

Evaluation

Timmy had difficulty sitting up on his own due to his poor sitting balance and decreased tone. He has difficulty holding his head up-right and it tends to fall forward during transportation.

Outcome

It was recommended that Timmy use an adaptive car seat known as the Britax Traveller Plus. The Britax Traveller Plus would provide increased trunk support as it has a 5-point harness system. Increased head control would also be achieved due to the lateral support provided by the head rest. The occupational therapist installed the car seat in one of the captain's chairs in the middle of the transportation van. This position allowed for

temporary tethering of the car seat to the back vehicle seat belt. Timmy's mother was thoroughly educated about tethering to a back seat belt in the public transport van. A soft cervical collar was fitted and issued to prevent forward flexion of Timmy's head. Thomas's younger brother was provided a high back booster seat for him to travel safely home.

The occupational therapist also issued heavy duty tether hardware to the mother to have installed in the family's vehicle, a 1995 Dodge Caravan.