

Case Study 7: Lisa

Child's age, weight, height

7 month old female, 15 pounds, 24.5 inches

Medical Diagnosis/condition

Severe Hydrocephalus

Reason for referral

The child's physician referred Lisa to an occupational therapist due to the size of the child's head.

Current child safety restraint

Linda is being transported in a Graco Snug Ride infant car seat. Previously Lisa was being transported in a Dream Ride car bed issued to her at birth, however due to her large head size she had outgrown it in width and therefore her mother transitioned her to an infant only seat.

Other child passengers and restraints

None

Vehicle Year, Make and Model

1997, Ford Taurus

Child's Seating Position in Vehicle D=driver

D		
		Lisa



Vehicle Issues

None

Evaluation

Lisa demonstrated increased tone throughout her upper and lower extremities. Due to her large head she also had an extremely large soft spot at the back of her head and therefore would require extra support when seated in a car seat. OT evaluated Lisa's fit and positioning in her current infant car seat, the Snug Seat Car Bed and a convertible car seat. Lisa's head width was already too large for the Snug Seat Car Bed (photo 1). She fit well in her current infant car seat and was still within the manufacturer's recommended weight/height ratio.



Outcome

The OT recommended that Lisa continue to use the current infant car seat, however the OT also issued a convertible car seat for Lisa as the OT was informed by Lisa's MD that her head size would continue to

increase. The 5-point harness of the infant only seat fit Lisa's small body and positioned her pelvis better than the convertible seat at the time.

The OT instructed mom on the use and installation of the infant only and convertible car seats. She also discussed the importance of continuing to position Lisa rear facing in the vehicle. The OT designed two foam wedges one to be used horizontally and fill the space between Lisa's body and the car seat, and the other to position Lisa's head and prevent it from falling downward. Lisa's MD was also contacted to ensure it was safe to transport her with her head turned to the side.