

Safety Recommendations for the Transportation of Children and Youth in Wheelchairs

DO

- ✓ All wheelchairs should face toward the front of the vehicle
- ✓ Always apply the wheelchair locks/brakes
- ✓ Power wheelchairs must be turned off
- ✓ Always use a recognised wheelchair tie-down restraint system using the tie-down locations on the wheelchair frame
- ✓ Always secure the occupant using a shoulder/lap vehicle restraint system **NB** *the chest strap/harness is not an alternative!*
- ✓ The lap belt should fit over the hips and NOT the stomach
- ✓ Use a head rest whenever it is installed on the wheelchair
- ✓ Securely store all loose items in the vehicle (including tray, walkers, medical equipment and back packs)
- ✓ If in doubt consult your school therapist
- ✓ Leave power wheelchairs in drive mode but turned off
- ✓ Leave anti-tippers down

DON'T

- ✗ Do **NOT** transport the wheelchair in a tilted or reclined position unless medically required and then only up to 30 degrees from upright **NB** *a school therapist can prescribe the degree of tilt required for medical safety*
- ✗ Do **NOT** use the tray during transportation unless it is made from foam
- ✗ Do **NOT** use head straps during transportation
- ✗ Do **NOT** fasten tie-down straps to moveable parts of the wheelchair e.g., the footplate, wheels, front hangers

Use of this document: This best practice guideline takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification. Please consult your Occupational Therapist if specific issues are of concern.

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Reference: <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/health-info/healthy-living/child-safety/transportation-for-children-with-special-needs>