

LECKEY



MyWay

Case Study – Gemma

Supporting Children

MyWay Case Story

Gemma is 5 years old and has cerebral palsy (GMFCS level IV). The trunk support, prone angle adjustment, castor settings and easy manoeuvrability provided by the MyWay reduce the effort required for Gemma to maintain an upright position. This has several significant benefits which Gemma has not achieved in any other supportive walking device:

- Independent initiation of stepping.
- Reduction of 'posturing' of her right arm, enabling her to hold the user handle.
- Reduced effort of stepping, means that she does not display a 'scissoring' gait.



Gemma is a bright chatty child who presents with significant weakness of her trunk and limbs. She can rise to floor sit and is able to bench sit independently with supervision. However, she is not able to crawl or rise to supported standing without assistance. On effort or excitement, she displays moderate increased tone of her lower limbs and her right upper limb.

Gemma had bilateral femoral de-rotation osteotomies in 2016. She lacks active supination of her right forearm beyond neutral, and has mild bilateral hamstring and hip flexor shortening. Otherwise she has full passive range of movement. She wears bilateral rigid ankle splints [AFOs] for supported standing. She requires assistance of one person for standing transfers.

MyWay Measurements and frame/harness selection/accessories

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Weight | 18.4kg |
| Height | 107cm |
| Shoulder to floor height | 87cm |
| Inside Leg | 49cm |
| Waist | 49cm |

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Frame | Size 2 |
| Harness | Size 2 |
| Accessories | User Handles |

First experience of using the MyWay

The trunk support, prone angle adjustment, castor settings and easy manoeuvrability provided by the MyWay reduce the effort required for Gemma to maintain an upright position. The shoulder supporting straps were not required. This set-up has several significant benefits which Gemma has not achieved in any other supportive walking device:

- Independent initiation of stepping. Gemma recruited some underlying abnormal extensor tone to step, which tended to propel her backwards. The prone angle was set to maximum and shoulder straps off. On first attempts, she managed to take a few steps in the MyWay with a gentle push to help her get started. With fine tuning of height and castors set to anti-roll-back and uni-directional lock, she managed to initiate stepping herself.
- Reduction of 'posturing' of her right arm, enabling her to hold the user handle. Trunk support reduced the effort of maintaining an upright position thereby reducing associated reactions including upper limb posturing. Gemma's physio Claire reported that she had tried other supportive walking devices but Gemma had no success in maintaining hand position on the user handle with or without gutter forearm support and straps.
- Reduced effort of stepping, means that she does not display a 'scissoring' gait. Trunk support with groin straps with or without the saddle reduced the effort of maintaining an upright position thereby reduced the hypertonus of lower limbs to enable more aligned stepping pattern.

Six week follow up

Gemma had been using the MyWay in school and had built up the distance she was able to walk to 15m. However, Claire her physio reported that the fine tuning of her position continues to be important to enable Gemma to initiate stepping and walk using her MyWay. Claire also reported that Gemma has really enjoyed the experience of using the MyWay and she plans to use it regularly into the future.

Gemma's mother said:

'This is the best piece of equipment I have seen in a long time!'

'Gemma is having fun while exercising'



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