



June 6, 2008

Kennedy Krieger Institute

Children's Mobility Foundation

To Whom It May Concern:

*A comprehensive
resource for children
with disabilities*

At the 2006 AOTA Conference in Charlotte, NC, I won a Power Pumper after entering the contest in the exhibit hall. I received the Power Pumper that spring and this has become one of our favorite therapeutic tools in our inpatient and outpatient programs at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. The Power Pumper is a movement/mobility tool that the occupational therapists use to address many therapy goals.

This piece of equipment is bright and colorful and appeals to school aged children as it is novel and fun. It is a piece of equipment that the children can get on and off with more ease than other more traditional bikes or equipment. It is safe for our busy clinic space and extremely durable. Children are experiencing movement when using the Power Pumper and movement leads to learning about space and directionality and the children learn to plan and move both their arms and legs in a coordinated way. A wonderful benefit to use is that often increased vocalization is seen during movement.

The children are engaging in a developmentally appropriate occupation (i.e. play) when riding the Power Pumper. All children need sensory input to foster learning and children with motor disabilities have obstacles with fewer opportunities to experience self directed movement. Our clients learn or are assisted to engage their body to move both upper and lower extremities to propel the Power Pumper. The children are participating in an activity that is considered heavy work and this repetitive pushing/pulling movement helps to build strength, endurance and motor control. The heavy work can be calming and organizing for many children.

The Power Pumper can be used with most children with varying diagnoses and conditions that effect muscle strength, coordination, endurance, motor planning, visual spatial, and sensory motor concerns. So the Power Pumper is versatile and practical in our facility. Our preschool children admitted to our Feeding Disorders Program are drawn to the Power Pumper and while they are having fun, we can increase their participation in a novel sensory motor experience that is a foundation for development of more refined motor skills needed for eating. Many of our outpatients use the Power Pumper to practice following directions, to learn concepts of stop and start, and to increase awareness of the environment through vigilance to obstacles. Our children with neurological conditions can work on their rehabilitative goals.

After admission to one of our intensive day treatment programs, a family purchased the Power Pumper for home because of the positive results from the use of this therapeutic tool in occupational therapy during their admission. This is just one family who has emphasized the use at home of the Power Pumper because it is practical, fun, and safe and reinforces therapy goals. Lastly, access to the Power Pumper will permit children to work on established goals within their natural environment. Our therapy programs have been made richer with use of the Power Pumper.

Sincerely,

Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs, MS, OTR/L

Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs, MS, OTR/L

Director of Occupational Therapy