

Power Wheelchair Criteria - Indoor

The following are criteria to help determine if a client is appropriate for a power wheelchair. If a client is able to demonstrate the following criteria during an initial assessment and/or during any other subsequent training sessions, a power wheelchair is deemed appropriate. If the client only meets some of these criteria, training guidelines will be provided to the family/caregivers to help develop these skills. The intention of this tool is to provide as appropriate a recommendation as possible for the client.

- _____ The client demonstrates Cause and Effect concepts in the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client realizes that activating the access method (i.e. a switch) is causing movement of the power wheelchair. This may be communicated verbally or by expression.
- _____ The client demonstrates Stop and Go concepts in the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client realizes that activating the access method (i.e. a switch) is moving the power wheelchair and that releasing the access method stops that movement. This may be demonstrated verbally, by following directions to “Stop” and “Go”, or stopping consistently for obstacles.
- _____ The client demonstrates Directional concepts in the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client realizes that the power wheelchair will move in different directions, depending on how the access method is used. For example, moving the joystick in another direction or activating different switches for different directions.
- _____ The client demonstrates the ability to follow directions while driving the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client will follow directions such as “Stop”, “Go” and “Come Here”.
- _____ The client demonstrates adequate judgement for their age while driving the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client recognizes obstacles and attempts to avoid these, the client does not show signs of aggression with the power wheelchair and the client demonstrates caution.
- _____ The client demonstrates adequate problem solving for their age while driving the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: the client will maneuver the power wheelchair to a designated destination without verbal cues. I.e. drive to the stuffed animal.
- _____ The client demonstrates adequate vision functionally to safely drive the power wheelchair.
Demonstrated by: visual attention to the environment and the ability to recognize and avoid obstacles.
- _____ The client is able to use an access method with adequate activation, sustained contact and release.
Demonstrated by: the client is able to consistently and accurately activate access method (i.e. switch), sustain contact as needed and release to stop while driving the power wheelchair. The client demonstrates adequate endurance and consistency of motor control.
Access Method recommended: _____

Once a client has demonstrated competence in these areas, indoor driving is considered appropriate. Outside driving requires further skills. Please refer to the Power Wheelchair Criteria - Outdoors checklist for more information.

- _____ Mobility Training recommended to develop skills needed to recommend a power wheelchair
- _____ Mobility Training recommended to optimize driving skills after power wheelchair delivery