

Infant Toddler Training: Opportunities for Engagement

Tummy – Floor Time

Chapter 3: Positioning and mobility. Susan Attermeier. From Baby Power: A Guide for Families for Using Assistive Technology with Their Infants and Toddlers, edited by Patsy Pierce, Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Found at National Center to Improve Practice in Special Education Through Technology, Media and Materials (NCIP) Library,

https://www2.edc.org/NCIP/library/ec/Power_3.htm#anchor884376 (Nov. 18, 2022).

- Physical therapist provides considerations for finding the right position for different activities for a child. Tips on how to support a child in different positions are provided.

How do you solve a problem like tummy time? Laura Finney, May 4, 2021. Based on Novak I., Morgan C., Adde L., et al. Early, Accurate diagnosis and early intervention in cerebral palsy: Advances in diagnosis and treatment. JAMA Pediatric. 2017;171(9):897-907.

Doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2017.1689. Found at <https://www.leckey.com/blog/2021/may/how-do-you-solve-a-problem-like-tummy-time> (Nov. 18, 2022).

- Discusses the benefits of having a child lie on his tummy. Provides strategies that progress as the child's skills increase.

Active Seating

39 Positioning aids for your child with special needs & why it matters. Reference: Physiopedia. (n.d.). Module 3: Positioning Your Child. Physiopedia. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3435tyx>. Found at <https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/39-positioning-aids-for-your-child-with-special-needs--why-it-matters> (Nov. 18, 2022).

- Provides the how and why of supporting a child in a variety of positions. Highlights a range of devices that assist in supporting children in these positions based on their abilities, the task and environment.

Adapting your world for play. Erin, August 13, 2008. Complex Child. Found at <http://www.articles.complexchild.com/sept2008/00064.html> (November 26, 2022).

- Clinical psychologist and parent of a child with special needs provides advice on how to communicate with professionals providing services to your child.

How to make a floor mat for a child who loves to kick and stretch. Dawn Klepinger. Posted January 24, 2012. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/articles/2012-articles/february/floor-mat/> (November 26, 2022).

- How to article by a mother of a child who has global developmental delays and uncontrolled motor movements. She sought creative ways to provide different positions for him to stretch and learn and get a break from his wheelchair.

Trunk support options for children with low trunk tone. Susan Agrawal. Posted December 8, 2010. Complex Child. Found at <http://articles.complexchild.com/jan2011/00263.html> (November 26, 2022).

- Children with low tone usually benefit from trunk support. This article reviews a variety of supports and considerations for selecting the right one for a child.

Seating and mobility for persons with physical disabilities. E. Trefler, D. Hobson, S. Taylor, L. Monahan, & C. Shaw. (1993). Tucson, AZ: Therapy Skill Builders.

- The right equipment for seating and mobility needs can enhance the health, independence, and comfort of people who use wheelchairs. This text is an invaluable guide to evaluating the needs of these wheel chair-bound individuals.

Eating Supports

5 Reasons why you should get your kid an active chair. Kostiantyn Kyrlov. Posted March 2, 2020 [active chairs flexible seating homeschool homeschooling quarantine wobble chairs](https://activechairs.com/blogs/flexible-seating-in-classroom/5-reasons-why-you-should-get-your-kid-an-active-chair). Found at <https://activechairs.com/blogs/flexible-seating-in-classroom/5-reasons-why-you-should-get-your-kid-an-active-chair> (Nov. 18, 2022).

- Article addressing problems children have maintaining a seated position due to physical issues or difficulty focusing on an activity.

Our favorite high chairs and boosters. Megan & Judy, October 25, 2020. Found at <https://feedinglittles.com/how-to-choose-the-best-high-chair-or-booster-seat-tips-for-successful-eating-from-a-feeding-therapist/> (Nov. 18, 2022).

- A feeding specialist shares reviews of features she has found helpful when selecting a high chair for a child with complex needs, including eating skills.

The importance of positioning with eating for babies and toddlers. Paige Huhta, September 3, 2020. From Is this normal? Little Spoon. Found at <https://isthisnormal.littlespoon.com/positioning-and-eating-0920/> (Nov. 18, 2022).

- Tips to show you that poor positioning is making mealtime stressful. And more tips on how to address these issues.

Optimizing feeding and swallowing in children with physical and developmental disabilities: A practical guide for clinicians. Feeding and Swallowing Team, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. Found at https://hollandbloorview.ca/sites/default/files/2019-06/HollandBloorview_FeedingSwallowing2017-09-12_1.pdf (Nov. 18, 2022).

- A handbook was designed to both highlight key considerations and help guide clinical decision making during clinical evaluation and management of feeding and swallowing issues in children with physical and developmental disabilities.

Pre-feeding Skills, Second Edition, Chapter 15: Positioning and handling influences on the mealtime. Suzanne Evans Morris and Marsha Dunn Klein, 2000.

- Text, comprehensive resource for mealtime development. Includes fundamental information about normal development in feeding as well as limiting factors that influence feeding. Available through multiple vendors.

The importance of postural control for feeding. Redstone and West (2004). Pediatric Nursing, March-April 30 (2): 97-100. Found at <http://www.californiahyperbarics.com/research-pdf/the-importance-of-postural-control-for-feeding999.pdf> (December 23, 202s).

- Effective oral functioning for feeding begins with attaining better head stability to improve jaw control. Head control is influenced by trunk alignment, which depends upon the stability of the pelvic area. Techniques such as therapeutic seating and oral control can enhance postural alignment and improve oral functioning for the safe intake of food.

Lilli Little Room Resources

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI) Active Learning Coffee Hour: Little Room <https://library.tsbvi.edu/Play/19511#!> 11/19/2020 Video

- Learn more about how to set up the Lilli Little Room and select panels and play items to match your student's goals and learning needs. Presented by Patty Obrzut, Penrickton Center for Blind Children, Charlotte Cushman & Kate Hurst, TSBVI Outreach.

Attractive Objects: Choosing play items for the Lilli Little Room. Found at <https://activelearningspace.pairsite.com/materials/attractive-objects/>. (Dec. 23, 2022).

- Most objects could be perceived as useful as equipment for the “Little Room” or the Position Board. It is the children’s reaction in the form of increased activity that indicates whether an object is attractive. Learn about features that may make items attractive.

How to put a child in a Lilli Little Room. Found at https://activelearningspace.pairsite.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Putting_child_in_little_room2.pdf , (Dec. 23, 2022).

- Step by step guide showing how to place a child in a little room with toys and resonance board.

Forms for Systematic Planning and Observation of the Lilli Little Room. Found at <https://activelearningspace.pairsite.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Little-Room-Handouts-Compiled.pdf> (Dec. 23, 2022).

- This document contains a variety of forms and information about objects to use with students when using the Active Learning approach developed by Dr. Lilli Nielsen. These are not approved by Dr. Nielsen and only offered as tools that teachers might find helpful in documenting their observations of a student while attempting to use the Active Learning approach defined by Dr. Nielsen.

To borrow a Lilli Little Room and/or resonance board, contact the Assistive Technology for Kansans Equipment Loan Library

- <http://atk-kee.org/loan/>, 785-827-9383.

To buy a Lilli Little Room, visit <https://www.lilliworks.org>.

- Vendor site and links to professionals and parents who are part of the Active Living community.

On the Go!

Just go! Amanda Upton. Posted June 6, 2018. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/articles/2018-articles/july/just-go/> (Nov. 20, 2022).

- Tips from a parent on how to plan for getting out with your child. Includes a list of places in the community she's found to be friendly and accessible.

Toileting and Bathing

February: Adaptive equipment. Susan Agrawal. Posted January 11, 2012. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/editions/2012-2/> (Nov. 20, 2022).

- Tips on how bathe a child with medical issues that covers a range of devices with different types of support.

Keeping medically fragile kids safe in the bath. Unknown author. Posted January 27, 2021. MGA Homecare. Found at <https://mgahomecare.com/blog/keeping-medically-fragile-kids-safe-in-the-bath/> (November 26, 2022).

- Brief article for parents on tips for safe bathing routines provided by a national provider group.

Achieving Optimal Toilet Positioning for People with Disabilities. Elena Noble, MPT. Posted on Rifton, 2014. Found at <https://bit.ly/3czII1r> (Nov. 20, 2022).

- For a child with multiple physical challenges, toileting has often been regarded as a nuisance, an interruption, an added burden. New thinking about health and disability, however, has recast toileting as a critical intervention and an opportunity to teach meaningful skills. This article addresses a child's abilities, position and transfer needs.

Standing and Devices to Support It

The health benefits of standing and stander equipment. Scott Kouri. Posted March 12, 2015. eSpecial Needs blog. Found at <https://www.especialneeds.com/blog/the-health-benefits-of-standing-and-stander-equipment/> (Nov. 20, 2022).

- Individuals who are severely limited in their mobility due to a disorder, disease or injury could also be helped greatly by standing for an hour or two as part of their daily therapy. For these individuals, [assistive standers](#), [standing frames](#) and [standing wheelchairs](#) are available to provide the health benefits of standing to both children and adults.

Why you need to get your child standing! Susan Agrawal. Posted November 19, 2019. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/articles/2019-articles/december/get-child-standing/> (Nov. 26, 2022).

- There are numerous benefits to standing, some of which have been evaluated scientifically and others that have been noted anecdotally by children and adults using standers. Most children are able to stand, given the right type of stander, integrated supports within the stander, and appropriate braces and orthotics.

All about standers. Susan Agrawal. Posted January 9, 2012. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/articles/2012-articles/february/standers/> (November, 26, 2022).

- This article lists the type of standers available, including specifications on currently available models.

Mobility

Achieving independent mobility regardless of disability. Unknown author. Posted March 18, 2008. Complex Child. Found at <http://www.articles.complexchild.com/00026.html> (November 26, 2022).

- It is impossible to underestimate the power of moving from one location to another by yourself. Almost all children strive to have this kind of control over themselves and their environment. This is especially true for children who have physical disabilities that dramatically limit their ability to move. How can we get these kids moving independently, even if they can barely move an arm or a leg by themselves?

Benefits of early mobility with an emphasis on gait training. Joanne Bundonis, PT, PCS, ATP. Rifton. Found at <https://www.rifton.com/resources/articles/2011/february/benefits-of-early-mobility-with-an-emphasis-on-gait-training> (November 26, 2022).

- When an infant becomes upright, they are on the same plane as the rest of the world around them; it allows them better interaction with people and objects in their environment. Benefits of gait training are discussed.

Cerebral palsy walkers, canes and standers. Renee Warmbrodt, RN, CPNP (reviewer and editor). Cerebral Palsy Guidance. Found at <https://www.cerebralpalsyguidance.com/cerebral-palsy/living/walkers-canes-and-standers/> (November 26, 2022).

- Many people with cerebral palsy need walkers, canes, standers, and other assistive devices to aid mobility. People with cerebral palsy often need intervention to get around the house, school, and other everyday places. The type of assistance needed depends on the severity of the condition and symptoms.

Car Seats

Car seat restraints for patients in casts and braces. Dr. James DeCarli. International Hipdysplasia Institute. Found at <https://hipdysplasia.org/get-involved/orthopedic-surgeons/additional-resources/> (November 26, 2022).

- **A Hospital-based Program ProCarSeatSafety.com.** A Resource provided by Dr. James DeCarli that serves Patients, Physicians, and Hospitals. Disclaimer: While there is a fee involved for additional services, the information and insight offered is free.

Professional resources for orthopedic surgeons (car seats). Unknown author. International Hipdysplasia Institute. Found at <https://hipdysplasia.org/get-involved/orthopedic-surgeons/additional-resources/> (November 26, 2022).

- Reminder that most hospitals have loaner car seats for children post-surgery. Tips on factors to consider when selecting a car seat for a child with complex health needs.

Car seats: Product listing for 2022. Last updated March 23, 2022. Source: American Academy of Pediatrics. Found at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/on-the-go/pages/Car-Safety-Seats-Product-Listing.aspx> (November 26, 2022).

- Annually updated list of car seats with advice to families on how to select the right car seat to meet their child's needs.

Car seats for children with special needs. Unknown author. Prevent Injury. Posted September 13, 2022. Complex Child. Found at <https://complexchild.org/articles/2011-articles/october/carseats/> (November 26, 2022).

- Many children with special needs require a specialized car seat due to positioning issues, problems with muscle tone, cognitive or developmental issues, and other issues. This article will present some of the most commonly available car seats for children with various special needs.

Car safety for children with cerebral palsy. Source: National Center for the Safe Transportation of Children with Special Healthcare Needs. Posted 2014. Found at <https://preventinjury.pediatrics.iu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Cerebral-Palsy-170131-web.pdf> (November 26, 2022).

- Brochure addressing common questions parents and providers have about car safety for the child with cerebral palsy or other complex needs.

Positioning for Successful Switch Access

Resources for extending single switch use:

Activate many things across the day

- **60 Things to do with a Switch and a Battery Interrupter** (Kate Ahern). Found at www.teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2007/02/60-things-to-do-with-single-switch.html (Dec. 23, 2022).
- **Ideas on How to Use the PowerLink at Home and at School** (Northcott)

Use familiar adapted toys in new ways

- **25 Things to Do with a Switch Activated Pouring Cup** (Kate Ahern). Found at www.teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2010/04/25-things-to-do-with-switch-activated.html (Dec. 23, 2022). Copy found in Resource Handout section.
- **Fifty Fun Ideas for Simple Switch or Low Tech Activities** (Molly Shannon). Copy found in Resource Handout section.

Build opportunities into the curriculum

- **Ablenet Remarkable Ideas**. Found at <https://www.ablenetinc.com/remarkableideas/> (Dec. 23, 2022).
 - Different ways to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by providing activities that incorporate alternative methods of access to ensure each student can participate, learn important educational and life skills, and have fun.

Resources for successful switch placement if you are the OT/PT:

Michelle Lange , OTR, ABDA, ATP/SMS is an occupational therapist with many years of experience in the area of assistive technology. She had collaborated with Ablenet to create 3 excellent webinars about switch access for ableU.

1. **Switch Assessment Part 1: Determining the Best Switch Type and Location for Clients with Muscle Weakness**. Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ayl40dSiWE> (Dec. 23, 2022).
2. **Switch Assessment Part 2: Determining the Best Switch & Location for Clients with Increased Muscle Tone**. Found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I4cdxpriW0&t=100s> (Dec. 23, 2022).
3. **Switch Assessment Part 3: Determining the Best Switch Type and Location for Clients Who Aren't Engaged**. Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHaEEQGm9bs>, (Dec. 23, 2022).

Kansas Resources

Kansas Medicaid Approved Seating Clinics

Wheelchair & Posture Seating Clinic. Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF), Wichita, KS.

- Carney Center Seating Clinic, our Wheelchair & Posture Seating Clinic addresses the needs of people with various types of physical disabilities, offering custom-built wheelchair seating systems. Since the program began in the 1980s, we have built tens of thousands of systems for Kansans of all ages throughout the state.
- Contact information: <https://www.cprf.org/programs/postureseating/> , 316-651-5200. 5130 E 20th St. N., Wichita, KS 67208.

Wheelchair and Adaptive Seating Clinic. Children's Mercy, Kansas City, MO.

- Children's Mercy offers a Wheelchair and Adaptive Seating Clinic for children and adolescents who have special needs. Prescribing and obtaining the most appropriate wheelchair or seating system for your child requires specialists who are up-to-date on the latest advances in seating and positioning technology. Our team of professionals are experts in helping find the solution that best meets your child's needs.
- Contact information: <https://www.childrensmercy.org/departments-and-clinics/rehabilitation-medicine/wheelchair-and-adaptive-seating-clinic/> , 816-234-3970, 2401 Gillham Road, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Kansas Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Health insurance providers contracting Kansas Medicaid to provide private health insurance through KAN Be Healthy.

- Aetna, <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/kansas/members>, 855-221-5656.
- Sunflower, <https://www.sunflowerhealthplan.com/members/medicaid.html>, 877-644-4623.
- United Healthcare <https://www.uhccommunityplan.com/ks/medicaid/community-plan> , 877-542-9238