













# Wheelchair Accessories


Choosing the right wheelchair for your child can be overwhelming. Below is a list of accessories that you may see or hear about when you do your research or speak with your therapist and/or vendor:

\*All images obtained from [www.sunrisemedical.com](http://www.sunrisemedical.com)\*

Accessory	Description	Visual
Anti-tippers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the back of the wheelchair to prevent tipping or flipping backwards</li> <li>Useful when propelling uphill, to feel safe when leaning back in the wheelchair or when placing a heavy bag on the back of the chair.</li> <li>Removable</li> </ul>	
Lap belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seat belt</li> <li>Required for safety, when being transported on school bus or medical transport, to keep hips properly positioned in seat</li> <li>Multiple styles available so your child can be independent with buckling and unbuckling, “airplane” style for children with less fine motor strength or coordination</li> </ul>	
Transit Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A safe place to put straps/ tie downs that are built into the wheelchair frame</li> <li>Required if being transported by school bus or with medical transport</li> </ul>	
Harness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple styles are available to provide your child with support to their chest</li> <li>Used for added trunk support with decreased postural control, to keep child from leaning too far forward in the wheelchair</li> </ul>	

<p>Casters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The smaller wheels in the front of the wheelchair</li> <li>• Depending on the type of chair, can be anywhere from 3” to 6” in diameter</li> <li>• Depending on the type of chair, can be made out of different material to make it easier to propel</li> <li>• They can even light up too, but at an added cost!</li> </ul>	
<p>Wheelchair tires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large tires on the wheelchair</li> <li>• Can be <i>pneumatic</i> (air-filled), <i>solid or flat free</i> (foam or another material that may be called “airless insert”)</li> <li>• Can be replaced every year</li> </ul>	
<p>Wheel lock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brakes</li> <li>• Different types available depending on the wheelchair, can be positioned on the side or underneath the wheelchair.</li> <li>• Extensions are available to make it easier to lock the wheelchair</li> <li>• Can be replaced every year</li> </ul>	
<p>Seat back</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something to discuss in depth with your therapist and vendor</li> <li>• Multiple different types/ styles that offer various support</li> <li>• High or tall back: provides support up behind the shoulders that provides the maximum amount of support but will restrict rotation, perfect for a child requiring assistance with unsupported sitting, makes chair a little heavier</li> <li>• Mid back: with support below the shoulder blades, still provides a good amount of trunk support, less restrictive trunk rotation, most common</li> <li>• Low back: with support to about the lower curve of the back, least supportive, child would need very good trunk control, more for athletic purposes, least common, cannot be transported on school bus with this type of seat back</li> <li>• Can be replaced typically every 18 months or sooner if medically necessary</li> </ul>	

<p>Laterals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to prevent leaning to the right or left while seated in the wheelchair</li> <li>• Used for children with decreased trunk control and curvature of the spine (scoliosis)</li> <li>• Can be adjusted, removed for transfers or can flip out of the way (requiring additional documentation)</li> </ul>	
<p>Hip guides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to prevent the hips from shifting to the right or left while seated in the wheelchair</li> <li>• Typically added with laterals (above)</li> <li>• Can be adjusted and removed if needed</li> </ul>	
<p>Seat cushion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something to discuss in depth with your therapist and vendor</li> <li>• Multiple different types/ styles that offer various pressure relief and support</li> <li>• Wheelchairs usually come with a basic foam cushion</li> <li>• Pressure relief cushions available for children with decreased sensation below their waist to prevent pressure sores and children who will be seated in their wheelchair for many hours out of the day</li> <li>• Can be replaced every 18 months or sooner if medically necessary</li> <li>• Gel foam cushions are adequate for a child with good sensation below the waist and children who often change positions frequently during the day</li> <li>• Custom cushions are available for children with leg length discrepancies</li> <li>• A pommel can be added for child with increased tone causing their knees to come together in sitting</li> </ul>	
<p>Arm rests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide support to your child's arms while sitting</li> <li>• Important to encourage upright posture, to use to perform "press ups" for pressure relief, for a point of contact to perform transfers in and out of the chair</li> <li>• Multiple different styles and most move out of the way</li> <li>• Swing away, flip back, height adjustable, with padding or without</li> </ul>	

<p>Foot rests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a safe place for your child to rest their feet</li> <li>• Depending on the type of wheelchair they can be folding (flip up and swing out of the way to the side) or rigid (adds more depth to the chair but will usually fold up for transfers)</li> </ul>	
<p>Push Handle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For parents or caregivers to assist with pushing the wheelchair</li> <li>• Can have two push handles or one</li> <li>• Some parents like the one push handle to be able to use one hand to push and maneuver the wheelchair and have the other hand free</li> </ul>	