

Pediatric Wheelchair Evaluation Prep Checklist

Preparing your child for a wheelchair evaluation can help make the process smoother and ensure they feel comfortable and involved. Here are some tips:

Gather important information

- Write down your child's medical history and diagnosis
- Note any specific mobility challenges
- List your child's daily activities they perform at home, school, or in their community
- Make a list of any current mobility aids they use

Talk to your child about the evaluation

- Explain that the evaluation is a special meeting to find a wheelchair or mobility aid that will help them move around more easily and comfortably
- Describe who will be there and what will happen during the evaluation
- Reassure them that their thoughts, feelings, and comfort matter

Dress comfortably

- Choose loose-fitting, comfortable clothing for your child so the therapist can assess their posture and positioning
- Make sure clothing allows easy movement during the evaluation

Pack necessary items

- Bring your child's current wheelchair, stroller, and/or mobility aid they use regularly (if applicable)
- Don't forget seating supports or accessories your child uses regularly

Encourage participation

- Let your child share their preferences during the evaluation such as color, style, or features they find appealing
- If they can self-propel, allow them to test out equipment and give feedback

Plan for breaks

- Pack snacks and a bottle of water to keep your child energized and hydrated throughout the evaluation process
- Pack a comfort item such as a favorite toy or blanket to help them feel secure