Unlocking Potential: Power Mobility Training for Children Who Have Multiple, Severe Disabilities

Children with severe motor, cognitive, and communication deficits are limited in their ability to use self-initiated movement to explore and learn from the world around them. Such children are frequently dismissed as "too involved" or "too low functioning" to use power mobility, yet research indicates power mobility may be beneficial for children with mobility limitations. This session will provide details related to the interventions used in our power mobility training program for children who have multiple, severe disabilities (ages 9 months to 26 years). Potential benefits of power mobility training in this population will be examined and explored. Various intervention techniques focused on creating an engaging environment customized to target the emergence of basic power mobility skills through environmental exploration and play will be presented and discussed. Case studies and examples from our program will be used to illustrate key concepts. Consideration of outcomes and expectations for the use of power mobility interventions in this unique population will be considered and reviewed.