

Case study – postural management

A four-year-old pupil arrived in school with a postural control wheelchair. This provided an appropriate reclined position for general use and being moved around but limited head positioning to focus on learning activities and a restricted position for promoting feeding. Because of the height of the chair the ability to interact visually with other young children was also limited. The child often appeared disconnected from group activities although he responded with smiles to an adult going up to him and making eye contact from above.

The provision of a postural chair for indoor use which provided good head support, forward eye gaze and the opportunity to change the height of the chair enabled the following substantial improvements:

- Feeding was more pleasurable, allowing good chew and swallow and social interaction.
- Progress, especially in social interaction with both adults and other children, through good head positioning, trunk stability and lowering the chair to a matched height with the rest of the group.
- Good progress in communication both with a shout to initiate interaction and the development of a clear YES/NO choice through the choice of two symbols.
- Increased ability to manipulate toys and make choices through good trunk stability and a more stable hand and eye position.