

Wizzybug Loan Scheme - Is Wizzybug suitable for my child?

Wizzybug is specifically designed for very young children who have a **physical disability that affects their mobility**.

We hope that the following information will help you to understand whether Wizzybug might be suitable and safe for your child. Please read this information carefully *before* making an application.

1. Age

Wizzybug may be suitable for children from around 14 months. There is no specific upper age limit as this is dependent on the child's measurements. We will also consider the age appropriateness of the Wizzybug for them.

2. Head control

We need to be confident that your child can maintain good head control for long periods. This means that they can reliably hold their head in an upright seating position without needing side support.

The movement of a Wizzybug and operating a joystick can sometimes make it harder for children to maintain their head position. For this reason, we need to be sure that using Wizzybug is not going to adversely affect their head control, their posture and therefore their longer-term health.

3. Child's size

To make sure that your child can fit well in Wizzybug and that they are comfortable and well supported we need to know their weight and some measurements. This information will also help to ensure that your child can use Wizzybug for a good length of time.

4. Application measurements:

If you decide to apply for a Wizzybug, you will need to have these accurate measurements to hand. These will need to be taken in a seated position and we ask that you closely follow our ['How to measure your child'](#) guide.

Measurement	Min	Max
Hip Width	None	23.5cm
Back of hips to back of knee (seat depth)	18cm	26.5cm
Seat to top of shoulder (back height)	26cm	37cm
Weight Limit / Carrying Capacity	None	18kg*

***your child must be 18kg or less at the time you apply but they are able to use Wizzybug until they are 20kg**

5. Sitting ability

The Wizzybug comes with the support of a pelvic belt, harness, standard headrest, and laterals. Please carefully consider if this will be enough for your child to be able to maintain an upright sitting position comfortably and safely, with sustained head control.

6. Medical devices

Wizzybug does not allow for the attachment of medical devices for example oxygen. It is therefore only suitable if a child is on intermittent oxygen or other external medical devices that they can be safely disconnected from whilst using the Wizzybug.

7. Level of understanding

To initiate some movement in the Wizzybug a child will need some basic or emerging understanding and respond to simple one word instructions. We understand and expect that not all children will be independent drivers and may need support to use Wizzybug, such as placing and guiding their hands on the joystick and encouraging movement through play.

8. Vision

Children with visual impairments can be supported to use the Wizzybug safely and we can give you guidance and advice about how to help them.

9. Using the joystick

Wizzybug has a side mounted joystick which can be set up on the left- or right-hand side. A child will need to be able to reach and grasp the joystick to make some independent movement in the Wizzybug. We have a variety of joystick shapes to best suit a child's grip.

There is also a 'carer control' on the back of Wizzybug so that you can take over driving Wizzybug for short periods eg. to safely cross the road or get to a destination when your child can then take over. However, Wizzybug is not intended for parent/carers to 'drive' their child around using the carer control.

10. Driving

Any independent movement in Wizzybug will be beneficial for your child's development. In most cases, with regular opportunities and support a child will learn to make movements in Wizzybug through play and exploring the controls, sometimes accidentally! We will give you hints and ideas of how to encourage some driving skills too. Wizzybug can be used indoors and outdoors.

11. Crash testing

Wizzybug is not crash tested and therefore a child cannot sit in it whilst in a vehicle.

Wizzybug Product Specification*

1. Flexible seat adjustment:

Easily adjustable without the use of tools as the child grows.

Backrest recline and tilt:

- Backrest angle adjustable from 90-97 degrees
- Seat tilt: 0-15 degrees
- Seat depth: 15.5-24.5cm
- Seat width: 24.5cm

2. Postural Accessories:

- RMS pelvic belt and shoulder harness (fitted as standard)
- Standard headrest
- RMS dynamic or butterfly harness and ankle huggers
- Thoracic supports
- Thigh guides, pommel
- Foam cushions with washable covers (fitted as standard)
- Adjustable footrest

3. Driving and Range:

- Suitable for indoor and outdoor use, including "off-road"
- Not crash tested
- Lithium Ion (Lifepo4) battery and charger
- Driving speed of 2.0 mph / 3.1 kmph
- Driving Range 9.5 km / 5.9 mile
- Puncture proof, low maintenance tyres

4. Controllers:

- Can be controlled via a joystick or carer control
- Dynamic controls Shark, DX or LiNX for joystick operation
- Joystick options: ball-knob, T-bar, golf ball, grip hedgehog cover, PVC foam ball, MERU cow horn, MERU T-bar

5. Dimensions and weight:

- Can be taken apart by one person to lift into a car
- Total weight 29.3 kg (heaviest section when dismantled is 16.4kg)
- Battery weight 3 kg
- Overall width of vehicle: 560mm / 56cm
- Overall length of vehicle: 650mm / 65cm

**Reference: Medical Device File, document 241-TFD-025 product specification, section 5.0*