



The selection of appropriate children is of utmost importance. Below are a few factors to consider when selecting children for the SMART Walker orthosis. *Please note that these are guidelines only and each child must be assessed on an individual basis.*

Diagnosis

- The device is most appropriate for children with cerebral palsy, either spastic quadriplegia or athetoid.
- Children who may not be functional using a Kaye walker and AFOs.
- Triplegia or diplegia with weak trunk, poor upper extremity control/weakness, poor balance or low endurance.
- We have also fit children with head injuries due to trauma or MVAs.

Ability to Take Steps

- Children must be able to demonstrate some form of reciprocal stepping while supported by an adult.
- Many often scissor and internally rotate their legs but that can be prevented once in the device.

Range of Motion

- Ankles to plantigrade (passive).
- 20° to 30° of contracture at the knee can be accommodated; however, the greater the degree of contracture, the more difficult it will be for the child to achieve a good step length.
- Hips stable.

Height

- Maximum 55 inches/140 cm for child's overall height (29 inches/74 cm from GT to floor). For taller children, overall height of 64 inches/163 cm (32 inches/81 cm from GT to floor), an extra large frame is available as special order.
- Minimum 26 inches/66 cm for child's overall height (13 inches/33 cm from GT to floor). With Height Reduction Adapter, we can accommodate a child as young as 16 months old.

Weight

- Maximum 75 pounds/34 kg (up to 120 pounds/54 kg with heavy duty componetry).

Head Control

- Children with poor head control may not do so well without extensive modifications.

Vision

- Many of the children have visual problems; those with total blindness should be carefully screened.
- With total blindness, there is a need to carefully assess head control and motivation.

Cognition

- Of course this is difficult to judge, but being able to follow simple instructions will be of benefit.

Motivation

- While motivation is not always easy to assess, it is of course important.
- Many of the children like to walk when held and enjoy being upright.

Use of Other Devices

- Use of other devices is not a prerequisite, but knowledge of the child's use and success with these devices can help with the decision-making process.