

ACTIVATE'S *UNOFFICIAL* GUIDE TO MOBILITY AND HOW IT CAN WORK BETTER FOR FAMILIES WITH A DISABLED CHILD

A combination of experiences with the many families we have worked with to improve their mobility and access to a better lifestyle

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What is Motability?

- ▣ Motability is an arrangement sponsored by the government to provide cheap and trouble-free motoring for disabled people.
- ▣ The most common benefit is the opportunity to have a vehicle on contract hire in exchange for the mobility part of the Disabled Living Allowance
- ▣ The contract hire scheme includes insurance, tyres, servicing – everything except fuel!
- ▣ **A REMARKABLE SCHEME WITH ENORMOUS CHOICE.**

Who qualifies?

- ▣ Anyone who is receiving the Higher rate of Mobility Component of the DLA – around £160 per month.
- ▣ If your child has restricted mobility, you are likely to receive the Higher Rate of mobility allowance from the age of 5.

The first choice

- ▣ When you start looking at the range you will find that some have a larger **advance payment**
- ▣ This is the difference between the cost of the car and what your allowance will pay for.
- ▣ The most common choice for families is a seven seater vehicle like this Zafira, that has a very low advance payment.



Things to check

- ❑ In the near future, will your child be changing their special buggy or wheelchair? You need to make sure the boot space can accommodate the changes.
- ❑ Do you expect to use a special supportive car seat? Some of the more attractive vehicles have seats that are too short to support special car seats, so check out the special car seat range with your occupational therapist first
- ❑ Slightly larger vehicles like the VW Sharan have larger seats, which are also removable to give a very big boot space. For a little more cost you can have a car that could work better



What is the biggest possible?

- ▣ In terms of space for a family, you cannot beat the VW Caravelle. If you are lucky enough to be able to afford one, look carefully at whether it is better for you to use the Motability Scheme, or whether it would be more cost effective to buy it outright. The advance payment is much higher on vehicles like this.



Moving on.....

- ▣ As your child gets older, the future starts to become clearer as you are able to see how far their mobility is developing.
- ▣ If your child is unable to walk effectively, as they get heavier they will spend more time in their buggy/wheelchair. You will find it more difficult to lift them all of the time
- ▣ Your child may be provided with a powered wheelchair, giving them much greater independence, but giving you another thing to transport in the vehicle.
- ▣ If a change occurs, and your Motability vehicle is no longer suitable – tell them that your needs have changed. They normally allow you to change the vehicle part way through the 3 year contract – incurring a small penalty (Usually £50)

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)

- ▣ These are vehicles that transport the occupant in their wheelchair – avoiding the lifting and handling.
- ▣ When these vehicles were first available, they were converted vans. Now they are more like cars, fully carpeted - often with air conditioning
- ▣ The vehicle shown is a VW Caddy, which has 5 seats plus the wheelchair space – advance payment £2500.



Easier Loading.....

- ❑ The dropped floor and ramp make access very easy
- ❑ The wheelchair user has their own seat belt and wheelchair tiedowns – all included.



Remember.....

- ▣ You can still transfer your child onto a car seat when using a WAV. You can then wheel the buggy/wheelchair complete into the wheelchair space – without having to fold it.
- ▣ The same applies if you have a Powered Wheelchair. Using a WAV will enable you to take the Powered Wheelchair everywhere you go.
- ▣ To download the guide to Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles go to:
<http://www.motabilitycarscheme.co.uk//documents/website/Mot%20Ops/Publications/WAV%20Guide%20-%20April%2009.pdf>

Insurance

- ▣ The insurance cover normally includes 2 named drivers – often one of them being the disabled person.
- ▣ With a child, this can be restrictive as there are possibly grandparents, uncles and aunties and other friends and relatives who might help you out.
- ▣ If you write to Motability Operations, they may be able to arrange a more open insurance policy to include the drivers you need.

Does the scheme offer good value for money?

- ▣ We have compared the Motability Scheme with other contract hire arrangements. The cost is at least half every month on the Motability Scheme.
- ▣ To start looking go to:
www.motability.co.uk

You may notice that a lot of the guidance is aimed at the disabled person driving – which is why we decided to approach from the ‘family with disabled child’ point of view.

We hope this helped you

- ▣ To find out more about Activate and our mobility equipment – all designed for children – go to

www.activateforkids.co.uk

All the best – and happy motoring!

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This presentation must not be changed in anyway from it's current form.