

Module: **Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility**

Session 1: Foundations of Developmentally Appropriate Orientation and Mobility

Handout L: Potential Advantages and Disadvantages of Adaptive Mobility Devices Versus Long Canes

Lowry, S.S. (2004). *Potential advantages and disadvantages of adaptive mobility devices versus long canes*. Chapel Hill, NC: Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers With Visual Impairments, FPG Child Development Institute, UNC-CH.

	Adaptive Mobility Devices	Long Canes
Advantages	<p>Can be used with two hands, offering protection with minimal cooperation and effort</p> <p>Are easy to use and can often be introduced to younger children when well designed</p> <p>Offer an immediate sense of protection and freedom to some children</p> <p>Offer a greater arc of protection than long canes</p>	<p>Allow one hand to trail, locate objectives, place hand on railing, and confirm orientation</p> <p>Are easier to use safely on steps</p> <p>Are easier to store (e.g., they can be folded and worn in a holster while eating, playing)</p> <p>Provide early experience with the actual device that will be introduced later</p>

	Adaptive Mobility Devices	Long Canes
Disadvantages	<p>Are not very compatible with trailing when using two hands</p> <p>Are awkward when used in crowded or narrow spaces</p> <p>Are unsafe for use in descending or ascending steps</p> <p>Can be difficult to use over many outdoor surfaces</p> <p>Can be difficult to store</p> <p>Can be a barrier to environmental exploration</p>	<p>Require more mature attention and motor skills to keep the device in front</p> <p>Leave broad areas of the body unprotected</p> <p>Do not initially achieve consistent arc coverage</p> <p>Are more challenging to introduce to younger and orthopedically involved children</p>

References

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