



NEW!

R82 Meerkat

Learning through movement

etac | R82



Simple, upright standing

The Meerkat is a simple upright standing frame with adjustable support for feet, knees, pelvis and chest. It also has the option to add an activity tray for functional use or a rocker base for the development of dynamic posture control.

Adjustments

Modular components can be clicked quickly and easily on and off to meet an individual's changing needs or the varying requirements of multiple users.

Tray
The tray can be positioned on the central column and is not restricted by the height of other support components.

Chest support
Support is adjusted using a simple and familiar ratchet system that allows you to de-rotate the chest for optimal positioning.

Pelvic support
The shaped pelvic support uses the same fastening system as the chest support allowing de-rotation for optimal positioning.

A distance piece (see below) can be fitted to increase the range of adjustment of the pelvis backward and forward to accommodate flexion where needed.

Knee support
The knee supports are mouldable and can be easily positioned forward, back and sideways while your child is standing whether using the Meerkat in anterior or posterior configuration.



▶ Frances explains the Pelvic support adjustment using the ratchet system.

Base plate
The compact base plate is shaped to reduce ground clearance which makes a facilitated standing transfer possible and brings the child to the same height as their peers.

Sandal
The innovative new design allows for width and angle adjustment of the sandals which can be quickly and easily removed as required.

▶ Learn how easy the Meerkat is to adjust

▶ Frances explains anterior and posterior positioning

Developing dynamic posture control

Meerkat has been designed to allow children to learn through movement. Being able to challenge posture dynamically promotes; balance, stability and efficient movement which leads to improved function! *(Pavao et al 2013, Pollock et al 2000).



Targeted support

All children develop postural control from top down, establishing control segment by segment. This process has been the subject of many research articles and is referenced here. *(Saavedra et al 2012).

Meerkat has been designed for you to lower the support in response to a child's developing ability. This includes being able to completely remove support components while retaining an open chain position.

Rocker

Providing support in a static position while creating movement to challenge a child's ability has been difficult for therapists.

Meerkat can be fitted with a rocker base that allows a therapist to challenge the child's dynamic posture control hands free. Positioning is supported at the same time as creating possibility for movement.

Challenging balance by changing the centre of gravity

When the rocker is fitted to the Meerkat base it can be adjusted allowing you to position a child so that the centre of gravity is shifted forward or backward.

This means that a child can be challenged to develop balance according to your therapy goals.



▶ Frances explains how she adjusts the Meerkat rocker to change the child's centre of gravity



Development of Dynamic Posture Control

Using controlled instability to create a learning environment!

Moving from standing....

Most children who experience issues with maintaining upright posture will be provided with a positioning device to help them stand. The static position may include support for feet, knees, hips and trunk with the addition of a tray for functional activity while standing.

Standing is an important developmental milestone. The stability an upright position creates in a good standing frame is an important stepping stone. As the child develops, support may be lowered and perhaps removed.

Most standing aids are static. This means that learning from movement experienced by other children who have reached this milestone, is very difficult.

Meerkat has been designed to bridge the gap between standing and walking for children who use a simple standing frame to support an upright posture.



Frances explains how Meerkat "bridges the gap in her therapy programme."

....through to walking

Dynamic posture control is an important learning experience for children progressing from standing to using a walking aid. Walking is a complex and challenging activity for a child with postural instability.

This challenge is increased dramatically when a child is asked to move from a simple, static, upright standing aid to a product with significantly reduced support and four wheels.

Using the Meerkat to work on developing dynamic posture control prepares a child for taking their next steps towards walking.

By adding a rocker base to the Meerkat, it is now possible for a child to experience movement while standing in a static position and so develop dynamic posture control.

Case studies in the UK have demonstrated how effective it can be to include Meerkat in a therapy programme.



Frances gives an overview of the case study programme



Read Poppi's full case study



Read Rivers full case study

Case Studies

Poppi - improved postural control

Poppi, 6, has been using the Meerkat as part of her therapy programme with a view to improving her standing, walking and sitting capabilities.

Poppi has Quadriplegia CP classified at GMFCS Level IV. Her therapy programme had focused on improving trunk control through static standing but the team at Humberston Park Special School, Grimsby felt that introducing the Meerkat with its dynamic element would enhance Poppi's development.

One year on Poppi can now sit on a standard classroom chair. She doesn't need a fully supportive Panda seat during therapy sessions. She can now stand independently for 10 seconds and her reciprocal stepping has improved along with foot clearance.

Frances talks about Poppi's progress

Oliver - improved motor skills

Oliver, 7 has Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, GMFCS Level IV. He has demonstrated significantly improved motor skills over the past twelve months since using the R82 Meerkat as part of a new therapy programme designed to develop dynamic posture control.

Oliver has high tone, particularly in his lower limbs with an associated adductor response leading to scissoring. After using the Meerkat as part of his therapy programme, Oliver is able to take steps without scissoring and shows significant improvement in walking.

After twelve months Oliver is able to pull himself up to stand and is starting to use equipment to cruise and reach and bend while remaining stable.

Read Oliver's full case study

Frances explains how she transferred her dynamic therapy programme into Meerkat



Therapy Programmes - How does Meerkat fit into a daily routine?

Saving time for TA's

The Humberston TA's (teaching assistants) found the Meerkat easy to integrate into the children's therapy programme. It could be set in the optimum position for each child using clear measurement scales to record the position of supports.

In this case, Mickayla has been able to use Meerkat for 3 different children as an integrated part of their daily programme. Mickayla adjusts the Meerkat quickly for each child to Frances' specific measurements.

The markings on the Meerkat indicate a reduction in the level of support required, evidencing progress as a child's skill develops.

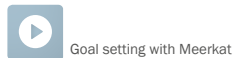
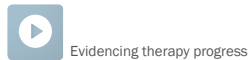
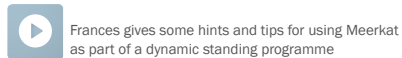


Hands free support

Meerkat allows therapists and their assistants to work on dynamic posture control hands free. A child can be comfortably positioned in the Meerkat whilst the ratchet system on each support allows adjustment and correction of body alignment. This adjustment has been made as simple as possible to facilitate quick and easy transfer.

Hands free support means that a therapist is able to stand back to evaluate progress. In the Meerkat, hands are not needed to support the child during dynamic exercises, single handed care is possible, reducing pressure on the TA team too.

Helping Therapists



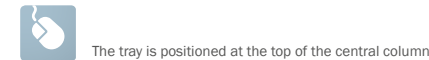
Transferring into Meerkat

Mickayla has helped us to work on transfers in and out of Meerkat. Take a look at the video below to watch Mickayla using a facilitated transfer from our Wombat seating system into the Meerkat.

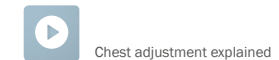


Meerkat Accessories

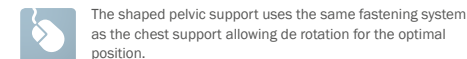
Tray



Chest support



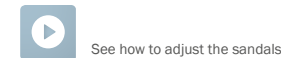
Pelvic support



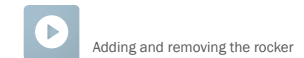
Knee supports



Sandals



Rocker





GMFCS - an overview

The Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS) Expanded and Revised (E&R) is commonly used by healthcare professionals to help families and clinicians describe how a child with Cerebral Palsy moves. A child's movement pattern when sitting, standing or walking is considered along with their need for assistive equipment. The system is useful because it suggests what equipment may be helpful to enable mobility and independence as a child grows and develops their skills.

GMFCS is categorised into five different levels which can be easily referenced online.

Using the GMFCS level scale, Meerkat would be considered most suitable for children categorised at levels II to IV.

(Palisano RJ, Rosenbaum P, Bartlett D, Livingston MH. (2008) Content Validity of the Expanded and Revised Gross Motor Function Classification System. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*; 50(10):744-750.)



Visit the new Meerkat product page on our website



* Find full reference details here



Contact us to book your free demonstration.

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