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Orientation and Mobility Evaluation Report

Student: Matthew Wulf

Date: 9/23/09

Submitted by: Alice M. Galvan

Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Matthew Wulf is a 12 year old visual impaired student who previously had received Orientation and Mobility Services from the instructor over a year ago. Matthew has a hearing loss, but he has been fitted with a Cochlear Implant in his right ear and he now hears at normal ranges according to what his mother Joyce Wulf stated during the evaluation. Matthew Wulf is being schooled at home due to medical issues (tonic seizures) as well as his immune system's ability to fight infection to disease like a common cold which according to his medical doctor could be life-threatening.

Matthew was observed with his one to one aide Deborah who is also his older sister inside the home and then outside walking. Matthew according to Deborah appears to have become more apprehensive of steps and any depth change in the floor due to his past episodes of seizures that have occurred on stairs and that due to his recent rapid growth spurt that causes him to have weakness in his knee tendons which have not at this point caught up with this growth spurt that cause his knees to not support his bigger frame.

Matthew was observed walking to the front door unaided, but he needed some verbal encouragement to go out on the porch to the stairs at the front of the house. The instructor went with Matthew to the stairs and he grabbed the instructor hand which he then proceeded to go slowly down the stairs. Matthew then waited for his sister Deborah to come down and walk with him. Matthew did fine with going with another person along the driveway, but he did appear a bit resistant to climbing up the driveway. Matthew according to the most recent eye report sees up to five feet in front of him. Matthew does not tend to look down or at ground level unless there is something with contrast of color for him to notice according to his sister Deborah and his mother Joyce. The instructor did notice that Matthew did not appear to look down or at ground level when he went on his walk outside.

Matthew walked down the driveway to the street entrance with either Deborah his sister in a guided position or he would let go of her arm and then he would appear to walk toward the instructor, but at times he also would stop walking apparently visual notice the instructor who was standing close to him and then he would walk back to his sister.

Matthew finally arrived at the end of the driveway which met the street level, but it is not a through street a cul-de-sac. Matthew was asked by his sister Deborah about wanting to walk and he proceeded to walk out of the cul-de-sac toward the neighbor's home on the left side of the street. Matthew on the flat ground was the most independent that the instructor had observed and he went toward the instructor and took her hand and started to walk with her about twenty feet before he turned around heading back to his home dropping the instructor arm walking toward his sister.

Matthew was able to walk independent of another person on flat ground, but he appears to require assistance in areas that he knows are difficult for him to walk especially if he knows that there is uneven ground like in the driveway to his home. Matthew walked back toward the driveway and he stop and pull away from his sister and then come right back toward her. Matthew got to the decline on the driveway and he stopped his sister Deborah assisted him as did the instructor since she was standing very close and Matthew had grabbed her hand. The instructor did notice that Matthew was a resistant as he traveled toward his home in a descending manner even with the assistance of his sister and the instructor.

Matthew when he was finally inside his home traveled on the stairs to the second floor for the instructor and he did this in the appropriate manner, but due to past seizures on the stairs where he has fallen his sister will stay very close to him in case he does require assistance. The use of stairs has been limited due to the seizures, so Matthew does not sleep in his downstairs room, but he still uses the stairs for traveling to his home classroom.

Recommendations:

Matthew could benefit from Orientation and Mobility training with an adaptive long cane due to his medical issues that would require a dual cane handle similar to the adaptive mobility devise he used to use in the home and school environment. Matthew could be trained to use the long cane for checking the floor in front of him as he travels in all types of environments. This adaptive long cane could benefit Matthew when he travels with his sister in the neighborhood walks and when he needs to go to medical and social outings. The instructor would need to introduce this device to Matthew and then monthly go and check to see how he is traveling with the device. Due to the medical concerns expressed by Joyce Wulf Matthew's mother his sister Deborah his one to one aide could practice with Matthew on a daily basis the training methods that the instructor would initially introduce. The instructor would work on a consult basis coming monthly, but if needed coming more frequently to check on Matthew's progress with the adaptive long cane. The instructor would come on a monthly basis to eliminate the over exposure of Matthew immune system to any undue contact so that he can maintain his healthy status.