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Special Seating: An Illustrated Guide, by Jean Anne Zollars
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Teachers, reading specialists, and speech language pathologists should find the chapter on literacy helpful. In this chapter, the authors recognize the difficulties that children with multiple disabilities and developmental delays face. Sadao and Robinson define the pre-literacy skills required for reading and writing and offer strategies and materials to target these areas that teachers and families can easily, and without great expense, implement in classrooms or home environments. A list of high-tech options is also provided.

The authors also recognize that play is a primary way that all children learn through exploring, pretending, moving freely, and simply having fun. Sadao and Robinson review the systems that are involved in the various types and stages of play including physical, sensory, visual, auditory, and cognitive. The limitations in accessing play materials and environments are highlighted and creative options given that will enhance any learning environment for children with disabilities. Families who are interested in arming themselves with assistive technology knowledge during the development of their child’s individualized education program or individualized family service plans will also be empowered to find creative solutions to learning through the assistive technology options presented in Sadao and Robinson’s book.

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Reviewed by Hsin-yi Liu, MS, PT

I read the first edition of this book in 2002. It was my first year working as a pediatric physical therapist in Taiwan. Configuring a seating system for children with various disabilities is always challenging. A senior therapist passed down the book to me. It was like a neatly hand-made craft, and turned out to be the only book that I could find covering all of the important information, feasible tips, and illustrations about assessing a child and configuring a special seating system. Even though more and more publications are including sections on special seating, I always went back to this book when I needed a systemic and practical review. After seeing the new edition of this book, I am excited to share it with my friends working in the field of special seating systems.

The revised edition of Special Seating: An Illustrated Guide is a very comprehensive book about special seating. Based on the framework established in the first edition, this book begins with gathering background information, how to assess body alignment and functions, and then provides recommendation for various posture problems. The content is arranged to include updated knowledge from scientific research, clinical findings, and current technology. All of the illustrations have been revised and are more precise with respect to the content. The book allows readers to easily understand and compare effects of different seating settings.

In addition to the original chapters from the first edition, there are new sections describing how to incorporate information gathered from assessments to set up a seating system for various circumstances, such as for different disabilities, for static seating, or for a wheelchair user performing self-propulsion. The newly added content makes this revised edition more informative and educational. With a case story connecting chapters together, readers can smoothly follow the decision-making process of setting objectives and prescribing a seating system. More specifically, the author elaborates on how to translate information collected from assessments into terms that facilitate efficient documentation and communication.

In addition to the systemic review of special seating, the book also provides several useful tools. A chapter summarizing the entire book, assessment forms, measurements of seating components, and the glossary serve as quick references and reminders for clinical applications. When planning service delivery of special seating, these references can be the starting point to sketch the blueprint.

This is an excellent book to learn about special seating. No matter whether you are a clinician, a...
seating device supplier, an engineer, a designer, or a teacher of special education, you can benefit from this book and apply the knowledge to improve the comfort and independence of people who need special seating.

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