



Darcey is in the Driving Seat!

As International Disability Day on 3rd December, 2009 is almost upon us, one family from Mansfield in Nottinghamshire shows how they overcome adversity to live active, fulfilling lives with a disabled daughter.

Ten year old Cerebral Palsy sufferer, Darcey Grogan's life has been changed completely thanks to a donation from a national children's charity and a vehicle adaptation specialist.

Following surgery in February 2009 to stretch Darcey's hamstring, she was left in constant pain after her sciatic nerve was damaged. As a result she needed an ambulance to get her to and from school, and other outings required both parents, Sonia and Robert to help her in and out of her wheelchair to the family car.

Following a donation from Caudwell Children a national charity, it enabled Darcey's parents to purchase an Autochair Turny Orbit Car Seat from Derbyshire based, vehicle adaptation company, Autochair which means Darcey can get in and out of the vehicle independently, as well as sit comfortably with the correct support.

The Autochair Turny Orbit seat has made a significant impact upon Darcey's life including easy access to the family car. The seat rotates, comes out of the vehicle, and lowers toward the ground, eliminating the climbing and twisting normally required. Once in the car, Darcey's twin brother Declan, who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome, is on hand to help her buckle up for the ride.

For Sonia and Robert, the seat means they no longer have to strain and bundle Darcey into the car. It means that even the most basic of journeys such as a shopping trip is no longer daunting.

Darcey's Mum Sonia says, "The Seat has given the whole family a new lease of life. Before it the strain of getting Darcey in and out of the car was getting too physically demanding and she was missing out on simple family experiences and we were not spending as much time doing these as we should have. We want Darcey to remain as active as possible and the ease of use of the seat allows her to do just that. We no longer dread having to get her into the car which as she is getting older and growing, was getting too much, even for two people."

The great news for Darcey and her family was that the seat arrived just in time for the family holiday in Tenby this year. Travelling all the way from Nottinghamshire it meant that toilet breaks were easier and Darcey was able to independently get in and out of the car. The seat also has one significant benefit for Darcey in that as she is moving and manoeuvring herself into position in the chair which is helping provide increased movement, vital for Darcey's condition.

Commenting further Sonia says, "It is really amusing the way the seat also affects other people – it literally stops them in their tracks. On numerous occasions we have had people stopping to watch Darcey get in and out of the car, they are fascinated by the way it works. In fact we have made several recommendations to people wanting to know where to get one!"

If you would like more information about Autochair call **0800 214045** or visit www.autochair.co.uk

Anyone wishing to find out more information about Caudwell Children can do so on 0845 300 1348 or visit www.caudwellchildren.com