

Sample Letter of Medical Necessity – Monkey



Sample letters of medical necessity are not intended to provide exact guidance on how to apply for funding for any product or service. every patient is unique, with their own individual needs. ultimately, health care providers should undertake a robust clinical assessment of each patient and make an informed clinical decision regarding the appropriateness of a particular product for that patient. applications to any funding source must be factually accurate and accurately reflect the individual needs of the applicant patient.

Jenx cannot guarantee the success in obtaining insurance or third-party funding of any kind.

Describe who you are, your role, client's name and state the equipment you are seeking funding for

I am a qualified (insert profession) and I am writing this report on behalf of **X**.

As **X**'s therapist, I am requesting funding for a Jenx Monkey prone stander. The Monkey is a medical necessity which would not be required in the absence of disability, illness, or injury. The following report explains the medical justification.

Explain the client's diagnosis, disability and past medical history (Include functional ability and limitations in segmental body control, overview of other impairments)

X is 15 months old and has a diagnosis of Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome), hypermobility and learning difficulties.

Tone/Movement/Strength: **X** has full, hypermobile range of movement through their upper and lower limbs. **X** is affected by hypotonia throughout their body and weakness particularly through their trunk and lower limbs.

Posture: **X** has nil significant postural concerns at present. Kyphotic posture and 'Frog-leg' positioning when sitting. At risk of postural abnormalities due to low tone musculature and non-ambulation.

Ambulation/Functional Walking Status: Non – ambulatory at present, not yet pulling up to stand independently. Now starting to crawl short distances independently.

Communication: **X** is non-verbal at present, but it is starting to recognise simple Makaton gestures with Speech and Language therapists.

Hearing: Conductive hearing loss associated with glue ear. Under regular review with Audiologist and awaiting hearing aids.

Vision: Convergent squint, has been referred to orthoptist awaiting assessment.

Cardio-respiratory status: **X** underwent corrective surgery for atrioventricular septal defect at 8 months of age and remains under regular review with a cardiologist.

Explain the impact of the client's diagnosis on their life (Discuss the implications and limitations without access to therapeutic equipment)

X is delayed with typical gross motor milestones and is not yet able to pull to stand or walk independently. This will affect many other areas of their development – for example the ability to interact and socialise with peers at nursery and siblings at home or the ability to explore and understand the world around them. At an age when **X**'s neural development should be at its most prolific, the lack of opportunity to interact with others/their surroundings appropriately could have a significant and long-lasting impact.

X is affected by muscular weakness, poor balance, fatigue, hearing loss and a likely visual impairment, all of which will further impact their ability to develop physically, emotionally, and cognitively.

Provide an overview of the equipment for which you are seeking funding and the physical benefits in relation to the client (Explain how the equipment will provide physical benefits to the client's individual needs, support with clinical references if able)

The Jenx Monkey stander is specifically designed for younger children aged approximately 9 months to 4 years old, and provides a supportive introduction to standing. The Monkey can be positioned from upright at 90 degrees down to 20 degrees prone. This wide-angle range allows for gradually building of tolerance to standing as part of a therapy programme. The thoracic, pelvic and foot components are highly adjustable to support individual needs and postures. It has a very engaging and child friendly design, that fits well within the home and nursery environments.

A systematic review has suggested appropriately – dosed standing programmes may have positive effects on healthy skeletal development, maintaining range of motion and spasticity, whilst enabling eye to eye interaction with peers. (Paleg et al, 2013). For **X**, access to a Monkey stander will encourage further development of physical milestones such as standing independently and walking independently. It will encourage development of postural control muscles and balance. Support around the trunk and lower limbs will allow **X** to refine their head control, upper limb function and hand eye coordination further. Supported standing with the Monkey can also help prevent physical abnormalities such as muscular contracture or hip dysplasia which are often associated with immobility.

Describe the psychological benefits of equipment (Include benefits to carers and family as well as client if able, support with clinical references if able)

For **X**, the Monkey stander will enable eye level interaction with their siblings and peers, which will enhance their social, emotional, and psychological development.

X's carers are still understanding their child's needs and their condition. They are worried that **X** will not walk independently and will not be able to make friends. The Monkey will help show that **X** can achieve and progress with developmental milestones and ease carer fears.

Discuss other equipment experiences that have not been appropriate for client (Why were the other equipment not appropriate in relation to the client's needs? Re-iterate benefits of Dreama in comparison, include specific details of other products as appropriate)

X has previously trialled a very simple upright standing frame with straps did not provide enough support around the pelvis and trunk to maintain safe and symmetrical standing. **X** also needs a standing frame that can allow for prone positioning to challenge and develop extensor muscles through their neck and trunk more effectively for improved postural control.

The Monkey will provide the appropriate amount of support for standing, whilst enabling graded prone positioning than can encourage further physical development.

Describe the equipment and accessories being requested for the client

X will require:

1 Monkey Standing Frame

1 Activity Frame


1 Pair of Sandals size 1






1 Pair of Ankle Snugs size 1

Use descriptions of medical necessity below to assist with the clinical need in relation to the client, delete items as appropriate.

Jenx Monkey Prone Stander components and medical necessity

(Delete items as required)

Item	Description of Medical Necessity
 <p>Monkey Standing Frame</p>	<p>Specifically designed for younger children with a friendly and engaging design, the Monkey is a gentle introduction to standing. Supports client in an upright, forward leaning position that requires adequate head control.</p> <p>Has smooth and easy angle adjustment, even with the child in the product, that can go from upright at 90 degrees down to 20 degrees prone. This wide-angle range can be used to gradually build tolerance to standing as part of a therapy programme and promote extensor muscle strength. Can be used therapeutically to provide a sustained stretch to musculature, develop weight shifting, balance, reaching and midline control. The thoracic and pelvic support along with flexible leg positioning make the Monkey a versatile option for the unique and individual needs of most children</p> <p>Weight bearing can be beneficial for strength, bone mineral density, digestion, postural control, tone reduction, musculoskeletal development and respiratory function</p>

<p>Activity Frame</p> 	<p>Great for encouraging head control, hand/eye coordination and midline. Simple to attach and adjust for ease of use. Comes with two clips for attaching toys or other items.</p>
<p>Grab Bar</p> 	<p>Used for children who need to fix one hand and provide stability to increase functionality.</p>
<p>Sandals</p> 	<p>Available in different sizes to accommodate the size of foot, even when wearing splints. Provide support for optimal foot positioning and an optimum base of support for standing. Straps open from the back facilitating easy stand transfers into prone standing.</p>
<p>Sandal Raising Blocks</p> 	<p>The raising block kits give the sandals that extra bit of height where needed, for example when accommodating a leg length discrepancy. 2 sets can also be used to raise the height of the footplate on the standing frame and maximise the available growth.</p>
<p>Ankle Snugs</p> 	<p>An accessory for the sandals that can provide extra comfort, support and sensory feedback around the foot and ankle complex</p>

Goals of Recommended Equipment (Client and Carer's voice should be central to goals, goals should be personal to client's individual needs)

X is due to start nursery soon, and as such **X**'s carers want support to enable their child to stand and interact with their peers in a safe manner. It is also important for **X** to be able to play at home in standing with their siblings.

X's carers would like support to progress **X**'s skills and function as possible.

Goals of the Monkey Stander:

- To provide functional and safe positioning that promotes physical development – Standing independently within the next 12 months, walking independently within the next 2 years
- To develop postural control
- To allow for energy conservation
- To improve balance
- To prevent postural deterioration
- To improve interaction with peers/siblings and surroundings, including the ability to play and learn safely in an eye level standing position.

How does prescription of this equipment incorporate the F-Words in Childhood Disability (Rosenbaum & Gorter, 2011)?

Fitness – Regular and appropriate access to a Monkey standing frame could have many significant positive health benefits for **X**. These benefits could include helping to prevent postural deformity, improved bone mineral density or positively affecting alertness and cognitive function (Paleg et al., 2013). Daily standing will help **X** build up their tolerance for standing and reduce fatigue, eventually encouraging more independent movement and having less sedentary behaviour.

Function – Use of the Monkey regularly alongside **X**'s current therapy programme will encourage development of **X**'s postural control, standing tolerance and ability to transfer into standing. The Monkey stander will help **X** achieve gross motor milestones, including independent standing and walking. Standing with support at the lower limbs and trunk currently will allow **X** to focus more on developing their head and upper limb control and hand eye coordination, which is extremely important for their play and participation.

Friends – **X** is due to attend nursery soon and the Monkey will enable **X** to stand and play with their new friends daily and take part in as many fun and learning activities at eye level as possible.

Family – The benefits in function, fitness and participation when regularly using the Monkey will help show to **X**'s carers that **X** will continue to develop their skills, achieve milestones and make friends. The Monkey will ultimately help ease the care burden and support **X** requires daily as it encourages development in their skills. The Monkey has a small footprint and its foldable frame mean it is easily transportable between nursery and home.

Fun – The Monkey will enable lots of safe standing play at nursery or at home! It will mean **X** can play with sensory beads and water play with the useful bowl included in the Monkey tray or join in safely playing at the sand table and doing arts and crafts like their peers.

Future – The Monkey will provide safe and supportive standing for **X** that will enable participation and inclusion at nursery and home, alongside development of their physical and social skills. It will help ensure

X can achieve gross physical milestones, including the ability to stand and mobilise independently in the future.

Discuss costs of not having equipment/cost benefits with the equipment in place

The Monkey is a low-cost frame that will grow with **X** and provide support through the early childhood years to encourage development.

Children with Down Syndrome do normally achieve physical milestones, but with marked delays compared to typical development. The longer **X** remains non weightbearing and immobile, the greater potential for secondary musculoskeletal issues that may require costly medical intervention. The Monkey can enable swifter achievement of developmental milestones and reduce risk of secondary complications and interventions.

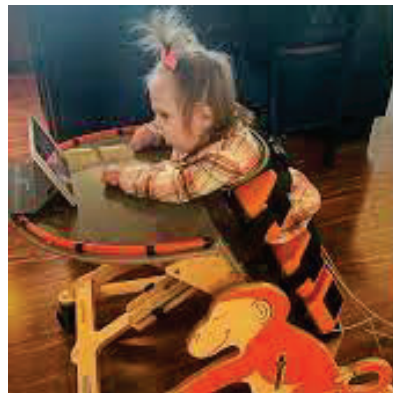
Summary/Conclusion

The Jenx Monkey Prone Stander will enable **X** to be included age – appropriate experiences, including socialising and playing with their peers at nursery. It will encourage development physically, emotionally and cognitively to ensure **X** achieves as many developmental milestones as possible and encourage greater independence and quality of life. It is essential funding is provided for the Monkey to maximise development potential and minimise the risk of secondary complications that may require costly medical monitoring or intervention.

Signed:

Date:

Include pictures showing the different positions the Dreama can support



References

Paleg, G., Smith, B.A. & Glickman, L.B. Systematic review and evidence-based clinical recommendations for dosing of pediatric supported standing programs. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*. 2013; 25(3): 232-247.

Rosenbaum, P. & Gorter J. The 'F-words' in childhood disability: I swear this is how we should think! *Child: care, health and development*. 2011; 38(4): 457-463.