

# Steps to obtain a Permobil Explorer Mini

Knowing where to start and how to proceed

## What is the Explorer Mini?

The Explorer Mini is a regulatory cleared power mobility device designed to facilitate self-initiated movement and early exploration for young children 12 – 36 months of age who have mobility impairments. Designed to also support development, the Explorer Mini is an ergonomic device with multiple weight-bearing surfaces to help promote safe, stable, upright postures while providing opportunities to improve strength, endurance and postural control.

## What next?

Let's start with the basics. Below you will find the essential information to ask yourself when determining if the Explorer Mini might be right for your child.

### Discovery

**First, understand the device and ask yourself if it might be something you want for your child.**

Connect with other parents on [Facebook](#) and check out the story of Explorer Mini on [YouTube](#) and the [Permobil](#) website as you might be asking...

- How could my child benefit from using it?
- Why was Explorer Mini made to be bright and toy-like?

### Fit

**Make sure it's the right fit for your child and life.**

Questions to ask yourself...

Maximum weight limit of child: 35 lb (15.9 kg)

- Is my child  $\leq$  35 pounds?

Maximum height of child: 39" (100 cm)

- Is my child  $\leq$  39" tall?



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### Fit *weights and dimensions to note:*

Does the Explorer Mini fit our life?

Weight of device: 52 lb (23.6 kg)

- Am I able to transport at least 52 pounds?

Dimensions of device:

29" – 37" (73 – 93 cm) tall

25" (63.5 cm) long

19" (49 cm) wide

- Will the Explorer Mini fit our home and community?



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### Prescription

**The Explorer Mini requires a physician prescription, which will allow an Occupational Therapist (OT) or Physical Therapist (PT) to perform an evaluation for the device.**

View some talking points to share with your physician based on supporting evidence for pediatric power mobility. The [Explorer Mini Supporting Evidence Reference](#) includes study results on the importance of early mobility in regards to:

- development
- cognition
- communication
- psychosocial development
- self care
- visual perception

You might be asking ask yourself... Why would I need to share this information with my child's physician?

Clinical studies have been performed to assess the impact that early use of power mobility devices can have however, the Explorer Mini is the first device of its kind. Physicians and therapists will have to justify the need for your child to use such a device, but may not have much experience in doing so yet. These documents can support their decision-making.

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### Evaluation

**The PT or OT evaluation is important to determine if the Explorer Mini is a good fit for your child.**

- If your child already has an OT/PT, start the discussion with them about what you think is important for your child regarding access to the Explorer Mini.
- If you do not have an OT/PT, ask your physician to refer you to one in your area.

If needed, your OT/PT may contact Permobil for additional resources from their [Regional Clinical Education Manager](#).

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### Connecting with an equipment supplier

**An equipment supplier will be the one providing the Explorer Mini.**

- Your OT/PT can assist you in contacting an equipment supplier if you do not already have one.
- If you are using insurance as a funding source, call your carrier to find an approved equipment supplier in your area. Here is a helpful link to find equipment suppliers: [Certified Professionals Directory \(resna.org\)](#)
- If needed, you can use [this funding document](#) as an additional resource.

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### Funding

**The Explorer Mini may may or may not be a covered item under your insurance. Your OT/PT/equipment supplier can guide you through this process as well.**

- For assistance when justifying funding, your OT/PT may contact their Permobil Regional Clinical Education Manager for medical necessity information specific to the Explorer Mini.
- Here is a list of [Alternative Funding Resources](#) that may also help.