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Dane's Car Adaption

By Joni Lanier



We began our research for adaptations for Dane's car by going to a couple of places that install pedals, hand driving items for the handicapped. We went locally and were very disappointed to find out that the cost was around \$800 to install extender pedals. We felt that was so expensive. Next, we went onto the LPA web site and found this little person who designed extenders, which was perfect because he knew the problems associated with getting a perfect fit for the little person. We called him and told him the type of car Dane would be driving and he sent us the extenders that would fit. They only cost \$200 and have worked perfectly. Next, we had to figure out how to get Dane above the steering wheel. After going

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to stores and looking for what would work, we ended up with a boat seat that you buy at a sporting goods store. The back of the boat seat is thicker in the back and slants downward. The seat has to be high in the back and slant pretty much near the steering wheel so his legs could fit and be able to move around freely. We added thick Styrofoam to the back of the seat and covered it with vinyl. Then, we added a pillow to help with his back and make sure he is sitting up straight and was comfortable.



Dane adapted very well to the changes. He has never feared driving and couldn't wait to be able to get his permit at 15. He had a wonderful Driver's Ed teacher who recommended a class Dane take with him that had less kids and he drove with only Dane. We were able to put

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the pedal extenders into the driver's ed vehicle and the seat. It worked perfectly. Dane's teacher is qualified to give the driving test to students when they turn 16 so when Dane turned 16, we called him and he was so happy to give Dane the test. He gave us a paper and went to the DMV and Dane was given his license with no hassle. He did not have to drive with a person from the DMV.

Dane drives everywhere, to school, parties, movies, drum lessons, confirmation classes, etc. This has given him the freedom he wanted so badly. We also bought him a rolling book sack that he rolls in and out of the school to and from his car. He has his electric scooter parked in the coach's office at school. He puts his book sack on it and is ready to go for the day. It is really working out very well. Any problems we encountered, we solved.