

Spina Bifida:

- is the most frequently occurring permanently disabling birth defect
- occurs in the embryo within the first month of pregnancy. It results from an incomplete closure of the spinal column
- Effects an average of 8 babies per day in the United States
- Could be reduced by 70% if every woman of child bearing age took 400 micrograms of folic acid daily prior to becoming pregnant
- Causes a wide range of neurological damage and mobility impairments

Potential Deficit Areas:

- Symptoms and severity of symptoms can vary greatly from person to person
- Hydrocephalus, an accumulation of fluid in the brain– often requires a surgical procedure called shunting
- Mobility impairments– from mild to severe
- Bowel and bladder complications
- Gastrointestinal disorders
- Learning disabilities
- Visual and motor perceptual problems
- Impaired attention, memory, problem solving, decision making, sequencing, and comprehension
- Emotional and social problems



Impact on Driving/Transportation:

- A modified vehicle will become necessary for children with spina bifida who use a wheelchair as they become too big for their parents and/or caregivers to transfer them to the OEM seat and as their chair becomes too heavy to lift.
- As the individual reaches the age to drive, a driving evaluation will be needed to determine if they have the cognitive, visual, perceptual and physical ability to learn to drive safely. (www.aded.net)
- This driving evaluation will determine if the individual will be able to drive or not and what if any type(s), of driving equipment they will need.

Possible Vehicle Equipment Needs:

- Wheelchair stowage lift and/or transfer seat
- Lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift
- Adaptive driving equipment specifically recommended for their individual physical abilities and custom fit by a certified technician.
- Equipment will vary widely person to person

ABOUT RIDE-AWAY:

Ride-Away is America's largest provider of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 11 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY or visit our website at www.Ride-Away.com.