

**Client:** Michaela and Austin

**Location:** Michigan

**Date:** Fall 2003

**Chair Model:** Koala Miniflex—”sized for children”

## Michaela & Austin’s Story:

Michaela and Austin are cute, independent and smart twins, members of a very nice family. They were 5 years old at the time of the video. They both have Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which is a form of brittle bone condition often accommodated by hypermobile joints, short stature, and other conditions.

They started driving at 2 years of age and both learned to drive really fast. When they first started driving, they had very limited floor mobility – many years later this has improved.

Currently, at age 8, they are trialing their new mobility devices, which is likely going to be the Playman Robo. This will enable them to independently transfer to the floor, as well as to different surface heights.



*Michaela & Austin started driving at 2 years of age and both learned to drive really fast.*



## Wheelchair System

The Koala Miniflex with an HMC Mini joystick was chosen with the following features in mind:

- The 22” base width gets through all doorways easily and 2 of them can easily fit in the house and in the family van
- The front wheel drive configuration is easy to maneuver indoors yet still provides rugged mobility around the house, in the yard or at the playground
- The 14.5” seat to floor height places the children at peer height and enables them to access the sink which was placed lower due to mom’s height

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# connections

## Getting the most from your wheelchair system

*Koala's 8" seat elevator lifts the children to tabletop heights*

The Koala Miniflex was chosen with the following features in mind:

- The 8" seat elevator lifts the children to regular tabletop heights for school and home activities. It also enables them to use the drawers and bookshelves in the house, so space can be used more efficiently.
- The Miniflex back and cushion provides a **soft and comfortable** surrounding to the body, which is important with Austin and Michaela's brittle bone condition.

### The next system:

For their next wheelchair, the children and the family opted for the Playman Robo with the Miniflex system. These systems are currently under funding review. Satisfaction with Permobil would like to keep the family with the same brand.

As the children grow, their peer height is also getting elevated. The Robo has a **2.5" higher seat** to floor height than the Koala. As they are now "well established" drivers, it is easier for them to maneuver a slightly larger base.

The **front wheel drive** configuration still maintains indoors maneuverability and advanced outdoor capabilities. The Miniflex seating system has served the children well, and they will be able to maintain that with the Robo.

As their **floor mobility improves** and as they grow, independent transfers become more important – it is also getting more difficult for mom to transfer them. The Robo covers vertical heights from the floor to 26", enabling enhanced independence.

## KOALA MINIFLEX IMPROVED MOBILITY



There are many advanced benefits of having an elevating seat: helps access school buffets, shelves, grocery stores, restaurant tables, ATMs, public phones, etc.

All these benefits eventually help establish a high level of independence in the community when the children grow up.



Single lever brake release



Cover up to 16 miles on a single battery charge (up to 5 MPH)



Optional bumper an ideal safety accommodation for beginner drivers

### POWER OPTIONS



The Power of Mobility

6961 Eastgate Blvd.  
Lebanon, TN 37090  
800.736.0925  
www.permobil.com

The **Koala**, Permobil's smallest pediatric wheelchair, is designed with a small child in mind. It is an excellent choice to experience mobility for the first time. It is small, maneuvers easily and intuitively, and handles outdoors well – all in all, it is a rugged little chair with the looks that are a perfect match for a child. It has several added features and the ability to accommodate growth. For more information about the Koala or any other Pediatric power wheelchair, please contact us at 800.736.0925.