

Adapt this Trike for your Toddler!

Schwinn Easy Steer Tricycle Adaptation for Toddlers

Nancy Dilger, MA, PT, C/NDT, CKTP

Pediatric Clinical Specialist

17692 Beach Blvd., Ste. 302, Huntington Beach, California 92647

ph. 714-855-2733 e-mail: footprintspt@yahoo.com



An Introduction:

If you are trying to put your toddler, whether typical or of varying ability, on a trike and get them to actually push, they may need help to grasp the concept that “pushing the pedals makes it go”. There are many models to choose from but the best tricycles are the ones where the front wheels are engaged to rotate when moving. Also, it’s helpful to have the push handle as it saves the adult’s back when one is constantly bending over to push, steer and keep the feet on the pedals. This model, the Schwinn Easy Steer Tricycle, has a seat belt as well as a push handle like a tiller. However the seat to pedal length is often too long, making it necessary to make some type of adaptation for the feet to make contact with the pedals. The following instructions may be a cost effective and helpful way to achieve tricycle riding by securing the hips on the seat and the child’s feet on the pedals.

Remember to always have your toddler wear a helmet!

Materials:

Sandals - 2 sizes larger than the child's foot size WITH shoes; must have Velcro closures
Hot glue gun
Hand drill & 3/16" drill bit
Triwall
Contact paper
Duck tape
Zip ties

Steps:

1. Put non-skid material such as Dycem or non-skid shelving foam on the seat; secure with duct tape
2. Fit the sandal on your child over their shoe to make sure the Velcro closures are long enough
3. Seat your child on the tricycle and measure the leg length while sitting on the trike from behind the knee to the pedal with the Velcro sandal over their shoe. At this point you may be able to secure the sandal directly to the pedal. If so, skip to steps 7 and 9. Otherwise you may need to determine the thickness of a pedal adaptation necessary to have their feet reach the pedals.
3. Cut the triwall in the thickness needed based on your measurements and the length of the sandal
4. Cover each piece of triwall with contact paper and seal the ends with Duck tape.
5. Stack the covered triwall pieces and hot glue them together, creating a block
6. Place the sandal on the pedal and center it so the pedal is aligned with the pedal; mark it. Then mark 4 drill holes that will be used to loop the zip ties through on both the inside and outside of the center of the pedal.
7. Drill the 4 holes in the sandal with the 3/16" drill bit
8. Hot glue the sandal to the triwall. Once set, use the drill holes in the sandals as a guide to drill through the triwall block
9. Secure the combined sandal and block to the pedal with zip ties by snaking the zip ties through the pedal adaptation. You may need to join the zip ties to make a long enough extension to go through the sandals and block combination.

Photos & Captions:



Place dycem or non-skid shelving material on the seat



...and secure with Duck tape



Sandal with Velcro closures 2 sizes larger than the child's shoe size



Sandal secured directly to the pedal with zip ties



Sandal and block combination secured to the pedal



Underside of pedal secured to block with zip ties



Child's foot in sandal on the block attached to the pedal



Final adaptations with non-skid seat and adapted pedals

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