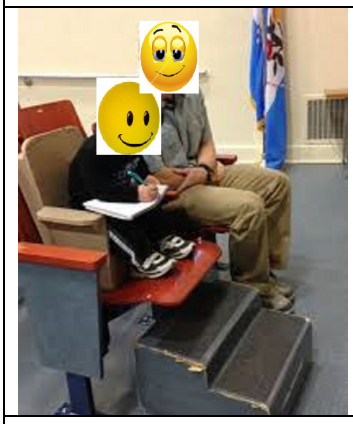
		
A custom rocker for a child who has sensory issues and must keep moving. The parent can lock it so it won't rock.	These steps are light enough for a child to move them independently around the classroom	A secure "saddle" for a rocking horse helps kids who want to ride but can't stay on without help. This is a class assignment.
		
The removable inner seat allows the chair to grow a few inches as the child grows.	This complex cardboard chair has several stacked foot rests than can be removed as the child's legs grow.	This child needed a back rest and a tray attached to his "bumble seat"
		
This child still needs a jumper or exersaucer but she is too tall for the ones on the market.	The child can walk and the parent can steer. The commercial equivalent of this product is very expensive.	Adjustable chair and stander that are commercially available. Wider version on the right.

I hope you enjoyed these examples. I collected them from the internet and blocked the faces. After taking the first cardboard construction class in New York, I have been playing with special cardboard, glues, edging tapes and construction techniques. I can make a custom size foot rest in about 25 minutes and the cost is about $3 for materials. The painting takes longer! Right now, I'm working on several designs for kids who need a back support for the cafeteria bench. I found an amazing waterproof paint that allows a cardboard box to hold water. This is SO fun!

		
Wheelchair soccer	Pre-school child with sensory issues who still loves her swing.	Custom size chair, table and tilted work surface.
		
Stairs and booster for theater class	A standing frame that can be tilted for resting or playing on the floor	This baby experiences pain when she is touched. Holding her in a supportive chair helps.
		
A standing frame for a child with poor balance and a need to improve leg strength. This appeared in a New York Times article.	A tippy stool is used to improve abdominal muscles, for kids with the fidgets or for people whose joints lock up if they sit still too long.	This custom chair insert allows the child to sit at the dining room table with the family. Built during a class.

Practical Adaptive Workshop Start Up – 2017?

I had a preemie with reflux and I made many adaptive items for her. Then I built things for friends and OTs. I want to customize or build adaptive items for children with special needs. My dream is to have a workshop where families, teachers and designers can meet.

Footrests, booster seats and supportive seats can be purchased from special needs catalogs but they are generally hundreds of dollars. I make most items out of extra strong cardboard, plastic, fabric and foam. They are inexpensive, light-weight and last a long time.

I took cardboard construction classes at the Adaptive Design Workshop in New York City. The founder, Alex Truesdell, won a McArthur Award for her work. Many students who take the class are interested in starting their own workshops. It really helps to have experience building things.

What products do your kids need most? What features do you need that you can't find? What do you want but can't afford? I would love to hear your ideas.

I'm not in business yet. I just learned that product liability insurance costs a minimum of $3500 per year. (On top of general liability insurance.) I may have to find or create a position at an existing company or organization that already serves the special needs population. Apparently, the price of insurance is stopping many of my fellow students. Connections are welcome!

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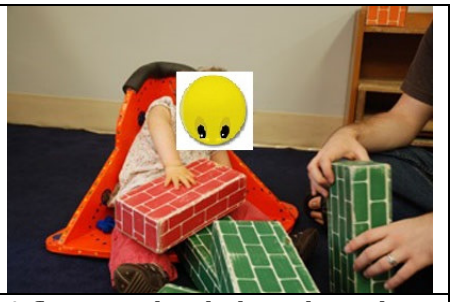
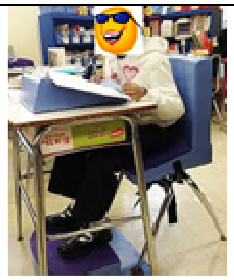
Examples of designs that other classmates have produced. Most are 100% cardboard.

		
Custom chair for a child who tends to slide out. (Not on the market)	Cafeteria booster seat so kids of any shape can sit with their friends. (Not on the market)	A floor seat lets kids with weak trunk muscles sit up and play independently with their friends (Retail cost $100-300)
		
Footrest, tilted booster and desk organizer. Light-weight foot rest is safer than wood in some classes. (Retail $60-160)	Guitar bracket. (Not on the market?)	Wheels for very little kids (Products on the market are all medical looking and expensive)