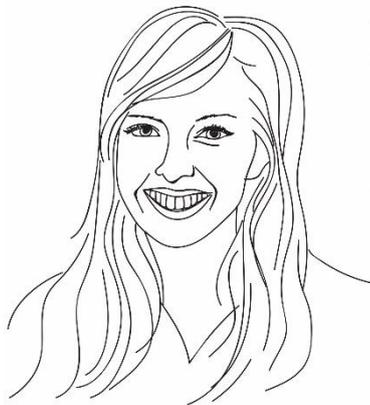


Tara's Story



CASE STUDY: Using specialist equipment to improve quality of life and well-being without compromising care.

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➤ Case Study:

21 year old Tara was diagnosed with Type 2 spinal muscular atrophy as a very young child. This is a muscle wasting, life limiting condition and causes weakness and very limited functional levels of every muscle in the body. Tara has reduced function and requires support with most care tasks. Tara is unable to bear weight and is dependent on a hoist and a wheelchair for all mobility.

Tara requires a height adjustable profiling bed to enable carers to safely assist with personal care tasks and due to a risk of bed falls, Tara requires side rails.

Tara is in a relationship and was struggling to share her single profiling bed with her partner. Unfortunately, it was not possible to align the profiling bed with a standard single bed as the mattress of the profiling bed was not flush with the bed frame causing a gap between the two beds which could not be overcome. This became very distressing and frustrating for Tara.

➤ Results:

The Occupational Therapist allocated to Tara's case was aware that the frame of the FloorBed was flush with the mattress of the correct dimensions, the purpose of this feature being to reduce the risk of injury on any hard surface should a person roll out of the bed. However another benefit of this feature along with low, plastic mattress retainers is that it is possible to place the bed at the same height as a single standard bed to achieve a double bed without any gaps.

The FloorBed was provided, a bed rail was fitted on the far side of the bed reducing the risk of a bed fall and a single bed was placed next to it on the other side. The FloorBed height was adjusted to meet the height of the standard bed and the two mattresses were flush, side by side.

The FloorBed enables Tara and her partner to share a bed comfortably whilst still retaining easy access to all sides of the bed as well as essential access to the profiling functions. Since provision of the FloorBed, Tara's partner has moved in as they are now able to share a bed in a safe and comfortable way without compromising Tara's safety or access for care tasks to be carried out.

➤ Testimonial

"The bed has given me so much more freedom. I am now able to sleep in a double bed but still raise the bed so that my carers can assist me safely." - Tara