Objective
To describe a unique opportunity to provide children ages 0-3 years with motor impairments access to a trial of a Go-Baby-Go powered ride-on car providing self-directed mobility in an early intervention center.

Description
• The Kiwanis Club (KC), a service organization with a mission to improve quality of life for children, solicited projects that could impact children with disabilities in their community.
• We developed a collaboration team including early intervention center director, and therapist, volunteer engineers, a local Go-Baby-Go champion, and KC members.
• The KC purchased and fabricated 4 cars in various sizes to use at Oak –Leyden Early Intervention Center (OL) 0-3 program.
• Therapists allowed the cars to be used in the homes, offering families a way to trial the effects of self-directed mobility.
• Currently 15-20 children use these vehicles.

Discussion
• The goal of Go-Baby-Go is to challenge the status quo that children with disabilities must wait until 3-5 years for self-directed powered mobility. The ride-on cars are child-friendly, socially welcoming, and are used by children with and without disabilities around the world.
• Many families struggle with the concept of using these cars in everyday life. The ability to trial the cars in a therapist group setting not only provides a validation of the efficacy of early mobility in any form, but also becomes a “try-before-you-buy” experience to empower the families’ energy, and money.
• By working with community groups, we highlight grassroots awareness of the multi-modal mobility needs of children with motor impairments.
• We encourage the children and families to play a central role in advocating for early access to self-directed mobility options as well as challenging physical and attitudinal barriers about what mobility is, and should be, for children.

References