



Primary Objectives of the San Juan BOCES TBI Team

- To educate teachers and staff who work with students who have had traumatic or acquired brain injuries by providing in-services or email consultation regarding the needs of these students
- To advocate for students who have had brain injuries by: facilitating transitions between buildings, providing suggestions for intervention strategies, and advocating for students with brain injuries in a variety of situations

FAST FACTS ABOUT TBI:

- * Brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability for children in the US.
- * 78% of people who have a TBI are male.
- * There are 2.6 million children in US with brain injury, many of whom are not identified or receiving special services in the schools.
- * A brain injury can occur without the person losing consciousness. Many brain injuries are overlooked because a child's consciousness was not affected.
- * Some symptoms may show up right away after a brain injury; however, some may not show up until days or weeks later. Often people may look fine, even though they may be feeling different.
- * 64% of traumatic brain injuries are caused by car accidents.



San Juan BOCES TBI Team

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Traumatic Brain Injury Team

Assisting in the education of students with brain injuries



Have questions?

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What is Traumatic Brain Injury?

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a sudden trauma to the head which is often called a concussion or a closed head injury. Some situations that cause TBI are bicycle and car accidents and sports-related injuries.

Acquired brain injuries are any injuries to the brain that are acquired, this includes traumatic brain injuries as well as those caused by insufficient oxygen, poisoning or infection, such as in smoke inhalation and near drowning incidents.

Areas of difficulty for students with TBI:

It is important to remember that all students who have suffered a brain injury will present with different signs and symptoms. Some of the most common are presented below.

1. *Behavioral concerns:* shy, withdrawn or irritable behavior; tantrums, impulsive or aggressive actions; decreased attention, motivation, self-advocacy, response to feedback and comprehension of consequences for own actions
2. *Social/Peer concerns:* loss of friends, reduced participation and interest in activities, decreased attention to social cues, poor self-monitoring of social behaviors
3. *Academic concerns:* inconsistent academic performance, uneven acquisition of new learning, disorganization and incomplete work, poor initiation for tasks, difficulty generalizing and applying skills, slow processing time, mental inflexibility



Classroom Intervention Ideas:

Keep in mind that weak areas in students who have suffered at brain injury will not be strengthened through therapy. The focus should always be on teaching the student to compensate for his/her weaknesses and on structuring the environment to facilitate success for the student. Remember, all students are different!

1. Antecedents: Try to set the stage for success

- A behavior support plan may be implemented
- use visual cues and physical prompts to ensure success
- model target skills and positive behaviors
- set up schedule to meet the needs of the student
- watch the student's emotional state for signs of frustration or anxiety

2. Maximizing effectiveness of teaching new skills:

- Always teach new skills in everyday environments. These students will not generalize skills across environments very well.
- Teach the student positive replacement behaviors to use in place of inappropriate behaviors.
- Use repetition to highlight key information

3. Students with TBI most likely will struggle in school; however, they almost always try hard!

Prevention of Traumatic Brain Injuries:

1. Wear a seatbelt
2. Wear a properly fitting helmet when biking, skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding or participating in other high-risk sporting activities.

Facts about concussions in children:

Children who have had a concussion may think, feel or act differently. Some of the signs to look for are:

- * Excess sleeping or lack of motivation or interest
- * Impulsive or aggressive, throws tantrums
- * Quiet, shy, talking less
- * Decrease in interest in activities
- * Disorganization
- * Forgetfulness
- * Inconsistency in performance
- * Inattentiveness



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