

What do we recommend for the family of a child with a Traumatic Brain Injury?

1. If your child is confined to home or hospital you may call your child's school for the Hospital Homebound forms or the Hospital Homebound office directly.
Hospital Homebound Office:

561-684-5192
Fax:
561-684-5214

2. Obtain results from all assessments from the hospital and any rehabilitation services.

Contact the
Exceptional Student Education Coordinator
at your child's school.
Request a child study team meeting.

The Department of
Exceptional Student Education
The School District of
Palm Beach County
3378 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite A-203
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
561-434-8626
Fax: 561-434-8384



Additional Resources

The Brain Injury
Association of Florida, Inc.
Help line:
1-800-992-3442

Free resources are provided to persons with brain injuries and their families who request information. Anyone who might benefit from their support services, educational materials, or other resource information is encouraged to participate in their organization.

The Florida Department of Health,
The Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program
Central Registry:
1-800-342-0778
BSCIP Headquarters:
1-866-875-5660



The Palm Beach County School Board

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**TRAUMATIC
BRAIN
INJURY**



**The Hidden
Disability**



Department of
Exceptional Student Education
The School District of
Palm Beach County

Understanding, Identifying and Teaching Children with a Traumatic Brain Injury The Hidden Disability

What is a Traumatic Brain Injury?

It is an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external force resulting in a total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects educational performance. The term applies to mild, moderate or severe open or closed head injuries.

The term includes anoxia due to trauma but does not include brain injuries that are congenital, degenerative or induced by birth trauma.

A school team will design a plan to assist with the student's educational recovery when a child has been identified as having had a Traumatic Brain Injury. Members may include counselors, special education personnel, nurses, school psychologists and regular education teachers.

Changes to Watch for...

- ☉ becomes restless or fussy
- ☉ doesn't pay attention
- ☉ forgets things
- ☉ gets mixed up about time and place
- ☉ takes longer to do things
- ☉ reacts strangely to new situations
- ☉ acts without thinking
- ☉ becomes easily upset
- ☉ loses temper a lot
- ☉ tires easily or needs extra sleep
- ☉ doesn't hear or see well
- ☉ has problems with words and sentences
- ☉ has a harder time learning new information

Warning Signs at School...

- ☉ lowered grades
- ☉ reports from teacher of uncooperative behavior or learning
- ☉ disagreements with classmates
- ☉ arguments and loss of friends
- ☉ sudden mood changes
- ☉ late, incomplete and missing work
- ☉ difficulty understanding what is read
- ☉ less interest in school
- ☉ absences

Tips for Teachers

- ✓ Reduce assignments-divide work into smaller sections
- ✓ Build in rest periods during the day
- ✓ Give more time to finish school work take tests or answer questions in class
- ✓ Outline (coordinated to class lecture) and order steps for big tasks
- ✓ Give written instructions that the student can refer to when uncertain or confused
- ✓ Use a notebook/assignment sheet to write down and check off what needs to be done
- ✓ Write down schedule of daily routine with places, times and persons for meetings
- ✓ Meet with the student to review home work assignments at the end of the day
- ✓ Reduce distractions
- ✓ Use cue words to alert student to pay attention
- ✓ Frequently repeat information and summarize
- ✓ Provide additional time for review. Color coded materials for each class (book, notebook, supplies)
- ✓ Ask student to repeat instructions back
- ✓ Highlight key words with colored marker/highlighter