TBI TIDBITS

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Traumatic Brain Injury: What Teachers Should Know

A traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head, or a penetrating head injury that dispurts the normal funciton of the brain. 1.7 million TBIs occur each year.

A TBI can Result from:

- Falls
- Car wrecks
- Sports injuries
- Collisions with objects or other people
- Being shaken
- Any trauma to the head

Common Symptoms of TBI

Cognitive/Commiunication	Emotional/Behavioral	Physical
Feeling dazed or in a fog	Irritability	Dizziness
Disorientation	Quick to anger	Weakness
Confussion	Decreased motivation	Changes in balance
Difficulty concentrating	Anxiety	Headaches
Slowed information processing	Depression	Changes in vision
Difficulty learning new information	Social withdrawl	Changes in hearing
Difficulty with memory	Does not get the "gist" of social interactions	Sleep disturbance
Difficulty juggling multiple tasks	May comment on or react to things that seems random to others	Fatigue
Communicating in "socially unacceptable" ways		
Difficulty with concentration and attention		

Identification of Students with TBI

- Many students with brain injury are not appropriately identified for accommodations.
- Challenges that result from a TBI are also common in students with other disabilities.
- TBI is an eligibility category under the Individuals with Disabiliteis act (IDEA). Some students with TBI need a 504 plan or special education services in order to succeed in school.

Key Questions to Ask When Identifyting Students with TBI

- Have a history of performing at a higher level?
- Have difficulties that began after an event likely to cause a TBI?
- Lose previously learned skills?
- Become unaware of loss of skills and abilities?
- Exhibits personality changes?
- Lose social skills or abilites?