

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Brain Injury Assn. Of Washington
16315 NE 87th St. Suite B 4
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 895-0047 or 1-800-523-5438

Brain Injury Association of America
105 N. Alfred St.
Alexandria, VA. 22314
(703) 236-6000 or 1-800-444-6443

Good Samaritan Center for
Continuing Rehabilitation
PO Box 1247
Attn: Rehab
Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6661 x 2773

*Children and youth with disabilities have the
right to a free appropriate public education.
IDEA 2004*

**Parent Training and
Information (PTI) Offices are
located throughout the State.
Call our main office toll-free at
1-800-572-7368 (v/tty)
for the office closest to you.**

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Parent Training and Information Program

Tips for Parents of Children with **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

Statewide Parent Training and
Information Center
6316 So. 12th St.
Tacoma, WA 98465
(253) 565-2266 (v/tty)
1-800-5-PARENT (v/tty)
Fax: (253) 566-8052
E-mail: pave@wapave.org
Website: www.wapave.org

Third Decade of Service

What is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

Washington Administrative Code 392-172-148 defines TBI as: an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability, and/or psychosocial impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance, and requires specially designed instruction. The term applies to head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas such as cognition, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities, psychosocial behavior, physical functions, information processing, judgment, problem solving, and speech. There are 2 kinds of brain injuries: 1) "closed head" caused by the brain bouncing inside the skull, as in a car accident, and 2) "open head" caused by a visible assault from a fall, blow or gun shot wound, etc. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

Does my child qualify for special education services?

A student with TBI qualifies for services through the local school district, if his/her learning is adversely affected because of the injury. Academic, social/emotional, and physical areas must be considered.

What services does the school provide?

In addition to the teacher, other support staff, such as therapists, counselors, aides or other specialists, may be involved directly or indirectly with the student and program. The program for a student with disabilities must be individualized to meet his/her specific needs and abilities. The "hidden" aspects of TBI, such as impulsivity, poor judgments, and social imperceptions, must also be addressed in the program.

How does a child get into an individualized program?

The parent or other concerned professional sends a written request for an evaluation to the special education director. A team made up of the parent, school personnel, and other professionals, who know about the student's injury, conduct an evaluation in all areas of suspected need. If the student is eligible for services the team will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to meet the student's needs.

What happens if after writing the IEP his/her needs change?

Students with TBI often experience periods of rapid change. The IEP may need to be reviewed more frequently than annually to maintain appropriate goals and objectives. By age 14, transition planning must be part of the student's program to help with the move from school to the adult world.

Transition considerations should include living arrangements, leisure time activities, transportation needs, health care needs, as well as continuing education and/or work.

Will my child be in a Special Education classroom?

It is not necessary, if the student's needs can be met in a regular classroom with the use of supports and services. If the student needs a more restrictive setting, that should be the placement. Remember the program and placements are to be directed by the student's needs and abilities.

You know your child best, and you are a member of his/her planning team. Ask questions and state your opinions. Be an active participant!

"Your child may be eligible for SSI payments. Contact your local Social Security Office for more information."