

## **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

### **(Also referred to as “Acquired Brain Injury”)**

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#### **1. DEFINITION/ CAUSE:**

TBI can occur when there is a sudden impact to the head. In a closed head injury, What actually happens is that the brain smacks against the skull resulting in a bruising of the brain and damage to the brain tissue. An open head injury occurs when an outside object pierces inside the skull and damages brain tissue. A TBI can be mild, moderate or severe.

#### **2. SYMPTOMS**

In the educational setting, the following symptoms of TBI may be noticed:

- difficulty maintaining focus/ attention /concentration
- memory problems,
- delayed responses,
- emotional outbursts
- impulsive behavior
- sensory sensitivity:
  - excessive noise
  - the hum of machines and florescent lights
  - bright lights
  - movement within the peripheral field of vision

Mild TBI may result in the following symptoms:

- tired eyes
- ringing in the ears
- bad taste in the mouth
- disrupted sleep and fatigue

If the injury is recent the student may be experiencing:

- dizziness
- headaches
- blurred or double vision

#### **3. RESILIENCY FACTORS**

The fastest improvement occurs within six months after injury but then dramatically slows after two years post-injury. Recovery can still continue at a slow pace many years after injury.