

## What Signs A Parent Might Notice



You may have noticed that your child seems different since the head injury. You may find that your child gets tired more easily or needs more frequent breaks, even when doing activities of interest. A child's attention span may be shorter and concentration may be more difficult than prior to the injury. Starting new tasks and/or activities may be an area of concern for parents and school staff.

Your child may demonstrate one or more of the following:

- ❖ Change in sleep/wake patterns
- ❖ Change in appetite
- ❖ Change in moods and/or mood swings
- ❖ Drop in grades at school
- ❖ Poor attention in class
- ❖ Fatigue easier than prior to injury
- ❖ Memory loss
- ❖ Changes in Behavior

## Why We Do Child Find

Even mild head injuries may have a devastating effect on an individual, a family or even a school community. Mild head injuries may be missed by parents, family and school personnel as the reason for school and social difficulties.

### Contact Information

Arkansas Special Education Resource Center (ASERC)

Phone number: 1-501-835-3330  
1-800-482-8437 (Toll Free)  
1-501-835-5326 (FAX)

Brain Injury Association of America (BIA)

Phone number: 1-800-444-6443  
[familyhelpline@biausa.org](mailto:familyhelpline@biausa.org)

Disability Rights Center

Phone: 1-501-296-1775 (Voice TTY)  
1-800-482-1174 (Toll Free Voice/TTY)

[www.arkdisabilityrights.org](http://www.arkdisabilityrights.org)

You may also contact the principal of your local school.

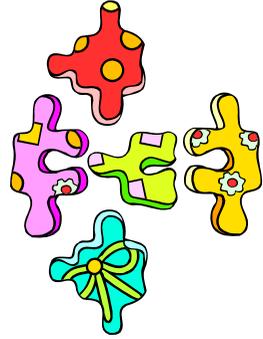


## The Arkansas Special Education Unit & The Arkansas Special Education Resource Center (ASERC)



## Understanding the Puzzle of Head Injury:

*Information for Parents and Families of Children: Birth to 21 years of age*



## What We Do

The Arkansas Special Education Resource Center (ASERC) is here to provide child find, referral information to families of children with learning problems due to head injury, as well as technical assistance to schools regarding educational services.

Child find activities may include helping schools identify students who have an educational disability due to a head injury. Child find may also include helping parents and/or other family members recognize that the child's difficulty in learning may be due to an educational disability subsequent to a head injury.

IDEA, a federal law, requires that every child with a disability receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in his/her school setting. It is important that children with head injuries be referred for services they may need.

## Who We Serve

Children who have a head injury that is called 'brain injury' or a 'traumatic brain injury' may be eligible for services through their school or preschool. This injury may have been due to a concussion, skull fracture, sport or motor vehicle accident, or other closed head injury.

Children who have what is called an "acquired brain injury" through blood clots, strokes, infection, aneurysms, tumors or other medical conditions, may also need services.

ASERC, the Brain Injury Association of America and the Arkansas Department of Education are here to provide referral for education and therapy to these children, when needed.



## What Parents and Teachers Say

My child is out of control...where can I get help?

My child has been expelled from school...since his injury he is so different.

Why does John sleep in my class? Since he got out of the hospital he can't stay awake.

The doctor said she would be "just fine," so why is she failing in school?

All she wants are sweets and things with caffeine. She says everything tastes "funny."

The teacher thinks my son needs medicine. He has always been busy and a little bouncy, but now he never stops.

One more fight on the school grounds and your son will be suspended for 10 days.