

Brain Injury and Learning

Children with brain injuries may require support to succeed in school. To ensure their needs are met, a formal evaluation may be necessary to determine the appropriate services. Based on the results, students may qualify for a 504 Plan, which provides accommodations for students with disabilities, or an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which offers specialized instruction and support tailored to their unique needs.

The student, the student's parents, school staff, and other professionals can work to develop appropriate accommodations based on the needs of the student.

Possible accommodations include:

- Additional time to complete work
- Breaks throughout the day
- Allowing students to record classes to review later
- Modifications to assignments
- Modifications to the way instruction is presented
- Modifications to test-taking procedures, such as allowing oral examinations or reducing the number of answer choices

For more information:

[Headway: Differences for Children with TBI vs. Learning Disabilities](#)



1-800-472-2670
(701) 328-2950
ND Relay 711 TTY
www.ndpanda.org
panda_intake@nd.gov

Learning Disability vs. Brain Injury

Individuals with learning disabilities and brain injuries may experience similar challenges like difficulties with processing information and executive functioning. While there are some similarities, there are also important differences.

A learning disability is typically present at birth or develops early in a child's life. With a learning disability the challenges are usually consistent over time without sudden change in abilities. Learning disabilities may become more noticeable as academic demands increase.

A brain injury may be caused by internal or external factors that result in damage to the brain. Individuals with a brain injury often experience noticeable changes in cognitive functioning compared to their abilities before the injury. These changes may affect memory, information processing, and executive functioning skills, such as planning and organization.

Occupational Therapy and Brain Injury

Occupational therapy may benefit individuals with brain injuries. Since brain injuries may impact cognitive abilities, visual perception, motor function, and social skills, occupational therapists can help individuals adapt or relearn essential daily tasks. They also work to improve visual and motor functions, support cognitive recovery, and promote greater independence in everyday life.

For more information:

[How Occupational Therapy Helps with Brain Injury](#)

[1-800-472-2670](tel:1-800-472-2670)

[\(701\) 328-2950](tel:(701)328-2950)

[ND Relay 711 TTY](tel:ND-Relay-711)

www.ndpanda.org

panda_intake@nd.gov



This project was supported in part by U.S. taxpayer funding through multiple federal agencies. The content does not necessarily represent the official views of these agencies and is not an official government document.

Please contact Protection and Advocacy if you need an alternative format.