

# 0-3 Brain Injury

## Screening and Assessment

Brain injuries can occur in infants and young children, who are particularly vulnerable due to their stage of development. Conditions such as high fevers and infections affecting the brain or spinal cord can increase this risk. Accidents, including car crashes, drowning or suffocation, exposure to toxins, falls, or other head trauma, can also lead to brain injuries in this age group.

Medical providers can assess young children for signs of brain injury. Common indicators may include:

- Decreased strength
- Decreased sucking/swallowing
- Decreased smiling/vocalizing
- Decreased tolerance to light
- Frequent rubbing of eyes/head
- Extreme irritability
- Decreased coordination
- Decreased ability to lift or hold head
- Decreased language/communication
- Decreased appetite
- Decreased ability to focus eyes
- Unequal size of pupils

For more information, see:

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

SAFE Child Screening Tool: Birth to 3-year-olds



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