



When Your Child's Head Has Been Hurt

Many children who hurt their head get well and have no long-term problems. Some children have problems that may not be noticed right away. You may see changes in your child over the next several months that concern you. This card lists some common signs that your child may have a mild brain injury. If your child has any of the problems on this list — **AND THEY DON'T GO AWAY** — see the "What to Do" section.

Health Problems

- ◆ Headaches
- ◆ Balance Problems
- ◆ Sensory Changes
- ◆ Sleep Problems
- ◆ Pain Problems

Behavior and Feelings

- ◆ Changes in personality, mood or behavior.

Trouble Communicating

- ◆ Changes in the subject, has trouble staying on topic.
- ◆ Has trouble thinking of the right word.
- ◆ Has trouble listening.
- ◆ Has trouble paying attention, can't have long conversations.
- ◆ Does not say things clearly.
- ◆ Has trouble reading.
- ◆ Talks too much.

These problems don't happen often

If your child has any of them, see your doctor right away

- ◆ Severe headache that does not go away or get better
- ◆ Seizures; eyes fluttering, body going stiff, staring into space
- ◆ Child forgets everything, amnesia
- ◆ Hands shake, tremors, muscles get weak, loss of muscle tone
- ◆ Nausea or vomiting that returns

Thinking Problems

- ◆ Has trouble remembering things or paying attention.
- ◆ Reacts or thinks slowly.
- ◆ Takes things too literally.
- ◆ Understands words but not their meaning.
- ◆ Thinks about the same thing over and over
- ◆ Has trouble learning new things.
- ◆ Has trouble making decisions
- ◆ Has trouble planning, starting, doing, and finishing a task.
- ◆ Makes poor choices.

WHAT TO DO:

If your child has any of the problems on this list, and they don't go away:

- ◆ Ask your child's doctor to have your child seen by a specialist in head injury who can help your child learn skills (rehabilitation).
- ◆ Ask your child's doctor to have your child seen by a Board-certified Neuropsychologist. This specialist can help you understand and deal with your child's behavior and feeling changes.

Georgia Emergency Medical Services for Children

