

People with Traumatic (or Acquired) Brain Injury

PEOPLE WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY have had damage to the brain usually as the result of trauma, such as an accident or stroke.

Some of the factors that affect persons with cognitive or learning disabilities also apply to persons with traumatic brain injury.

People with brain injury may have a loss of muscle control or mobility which is not obvious.

* For example,

A person may not be able to sign their name, even though they can move their hand.

A person with a brain injury may have poor social skills, such as making inappropriate comments.

They may not understand social cues or "get" indications that they have offended someone.

In their frustration to understand, or to get their own ideas across, they may seem pushy.

All these behaviors arise as a result of the injury.

A person with a brain injury may be unable to follow directions due to poor short-term memory or poor directional orientation.

They may ask to be accompanied.

If you are not sure that the person understands you, ask if they would like you to write down what you were saying.

The person may have trouble concentrating or organizing their thoughts, especially in an overstimulating environment, like a crowded movie theater or transportation terminal.

Be patient. You might suggest going somewhere with fewer distractions.