

# Returning to School After Brain Injury

How it might affect students?

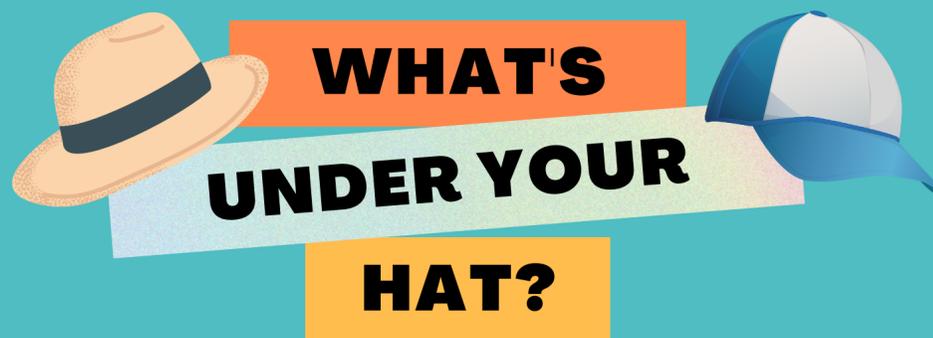
- 1 Physical changes:** Tiredness, lack of interest, headaches, awkward movements, slowed reactions, sensory sensitivity.
- 2 Cognitive changes:** Forgetfulness, difficulty learning new things, word-finding, problems getting organised, easily distracted.
- 3 Emotional changes:** struggling with change in routines, little or no expressed emotions, depression
- 4 Behavioral changes:** Irritability, inability to deal with unexpected events .

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION  
NORTHLAND**

What's Under Your Hat campaign - March 2022  
[www.braininjurynorthland.org](http://www.braininjurynorthland.org)

To donate: <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/bianorthland>





# Returning to School After Brain Injury

## Planning to return to school

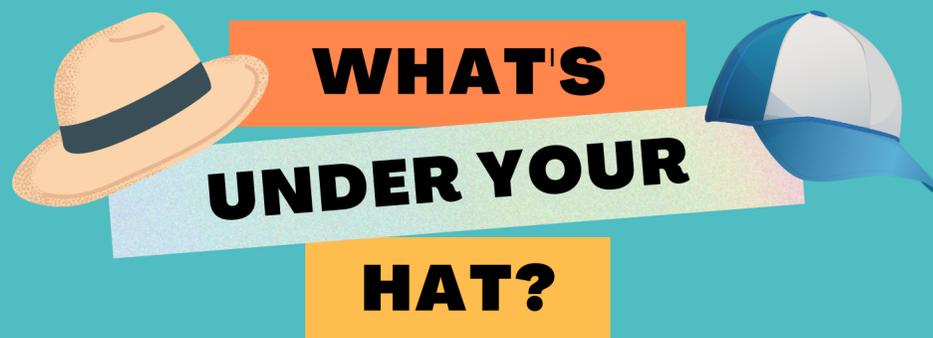
- 1** Rehabilitation professionals should communicate with family members and school personnel to help find the most effective ways to help the student return. This communication may need to be initiated by the student's family.
- 2** School personnel should be contacted as soon as possible after the injury to plan for the student's return to school. School personnel can also connect the student with services they need while they are not in school.
- 3** School systems are required to have special programs to help students with disabilities return to school. Most schools have trained special educators. However, not all special educators are familiar with the needs of students with brain injuries. On the other hand, not all students with brain injuries will require special programs.

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION  
NORTHLAND**

What's Under Your Hat campaign - March 2022  
[www.braininjurynorthland.org](http://www.braininjurynorthland.org)

To donate: <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/bianorthland>





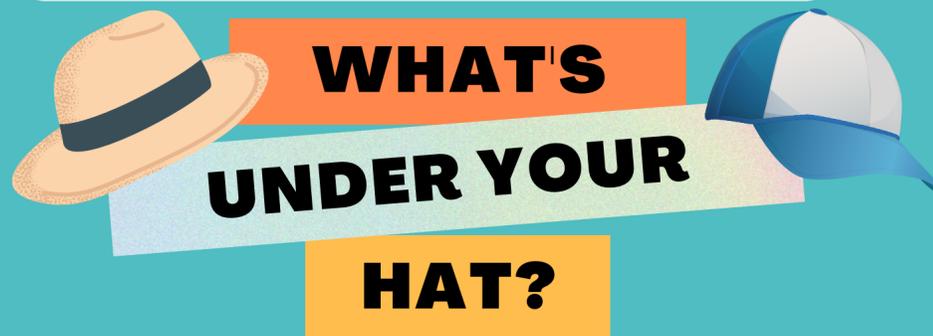
## Returning to School After Brain Injury

How can schools support students with brain injuries?

- 1 If Health Professionals are involved in their recovery (e.g.: OT, Physio, Speech Therapist, Social worker), make sure to liaise with them.
- 2 Identify the setting most conducive to their learning.
- 3 Student can become over-stimulated easily which can lead to difficulty thinking and emotional distress. Think of a quiet space where they can retreat to if necessary.
- 4 Be mindful that outburst are more common as the student's fatigue increase throughout the day.
- 5 Communicate change ahead of time as they may struggle with unexpected changes.

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION  
NORTHLAND**





## About Brain Injury Association Northland

One of our main objectives of the work we do is to raise awareness of brain injury- its diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

The prevalence of brain injury in New Zealand is significant, with over 99 people a day sustaining some form of brain injury. That makes us the highest per capita in the developing world. The causes are varied from trauma and health issues, falls sport injuries, family violence, vehicle crashes, stroke, encephalitis, hypoxia to name a few. Every person with a brain injury is unique and the support they require, are varied and complex.

The Brain Injury Association Northland was established in 1998, after public consultation. We are a Not-for-profit organisation that provides support, education and advocacy to individuals who are living with the effects of a brain injury.

A brain injury can have life changing results for both the injured and their families/Whanau and life can become difficult to navigate. Our organisation provides a free and safe place for individuals to access support.

The organisation struggles for funding due to lack of understanding. We receive no government funding and we rely on grants and donations. As a member of our community, we are looking forward to having your school join the "**What's Under Your Hat**" campaign.

