

Brain Injury Resource Team

of Grant Wood Area Education Agency



A Collaboration between the Iowa Department of Education and the Center for Disabilities and Development
At the University of Iowa Children's Hospital

Students With Brain Injury Have Special Needs



Brain injuries are common in children and can result from accidents, tumors, strokes, infections, or other medical emergencies. When students have a brain injury, they may experience new problems with learning and behavior. Managing these problems and the student's return to school can be frustrating for students, parents and teachers. Children may also have long-term learning or behavior difficulties following a brain injury that occurred when the child was younger and are continuing to affect their school performance. Finding effective ways to deal with the effects of brain injury may require special support and assistance for children, families, the local school staff and AEA.

The Iowa Department of Education has created Brain Injury Resource Teams (BIRT) at each Area Education Agency (AEA) to meet the needs of children with brain injuries. While every team assists the schools they serve in a different manner, the end result is to help families and students. The transition from the hospital to the school, the strategies for mild to severe brain injuries, and the ability to provide resources are ways in which the teams can assist. In addition, a Brain Injury Resource Team from the Center for Disabilities and Development of the University of Iowa Children's Hospital provides consultation to the AEA BIRT teams. These teams collaborate to provide consultation for children who have sustained a recent brain injury or were injured in the past, for their families, and local school personnel.

Grant Wood Area Education Agency extends equal opportunities in its employment practices, educational programs and services, and does not discriminate on the basis of color, gender, race, national origin, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by law. If you believe you or your child has been discriminated against or treated unjustly, please contact the Agency's Equity Coordinator, Maria Cashman, at 319-399-6847 or 1-800-332-8488 or TDD 319-399-6766, Grant Wood AEA, 4401 Sixth St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

How We Can Be Contacted

The parents or the Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD) may contact the AEA for support to the local schools. Other hospitals may also advise the parents or local schools who in turn may contact the AEA. **The Grant Wood AEA contact person is Kelley Martin, the secretary for the team (319) 399-6801 or kemartin@gwaea.org.** She will be in contact with the AEA Brain Injury Resource Team and the regional administrator for the school serving the student. The school nurse and counselors will contact or be contacted by the regional administrator for that school. The Brain Injury Resource Team will then work with the local team, school staff, and the parents to consult about the necessary resources and strategies needed for the student.

School Districts and Counties served by Grant Wood AEA

