

Impulsivity

Children may display a greater degree of impulsivity after an acquired brain injury. Impulsive behaviours are those that occur without due consideration for the consequences of an action. When questioned about impulsive behaviour, 'Why did you do that?' the child may be unable to give you an appropriate answer.

What you might see	What this could mean	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child exhibits risk-taking behaviours. • Child is blurting out answers in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor impulse control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure the child's environment to minimise risky situations. • Provide cues to help the child self-monitor, the teacher might have a verbal or a physical signal that acts as a cue for the child to 'Stop, Think, Do'. • Set up clear rules, and clear consequences for breaking the rules, and rewards for keeping the rules. • Discuss with the child the effects of their behaviour upon self and others. • If impulsivity causes significant impairment at school encourage the family to speak with their case manager, paediatrician or rehabilitation specialist about the possibility of a trial of medication.