

Sexuality

Adolescents who have experienced an acquired brain injury may have more difficulties in developing a positive sexual identity compared to their peers. They may be at higher risk of unsafe sexual practices or inappropriate sexual behaviour following the injury (Elliott & Beaver, 1996).

What you might see	What this could mean	Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child displays sexually inappropriate behaviour, such as comments, touching, or exhibitionism. • Child may adopt unsafe sexual practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinhibition. • Attention seeking behaviour - A young person may be seeking positive social interaction from sexual activity to compensate for feelings of inadequacy in other areas or social rejection. • Impulsivity. • Disinhibition. • Memory Difficulties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear guidelines about what's appropriate – where, when, who, and the consequence for breaching these guidelines. • Aim for agreement and consistency between school and home. • Encourage a young person's involvement in activities that promote a sense of competence, and involvement in activities that provide positive social interaction. • Reinforce to the young person their positive qualities and strengths. • The adolescent may struggle to benefit from regular class sex education due to their attention, memory and language problems. They may require repeated exposure to formal sex education, including protective behaviours, to be able to utilise this information to maintain safe sexual practice.