

# Orthopedic Impairments Multiple Disabilities

TBI  
OHI

Cortney Ciaschi  
Diana Moore



## What are they?

### Definition:

An **orthopedic impairment** is a physical disability that occurs from congenital anomalies, diseases, or other causes that adversely affect a child's performance.

**Multiple disabilities** are connected impairments that result in such severe education needs that students cannot be accommodated by in a special needs program solely on the basis of one of the impairments. This does not refer to deaf-blindness.

TBI or a **traumatic brain injury** an injury to the brain caused by external force that results in a disability or psychosocial impairment that affects performance.

OHI, or **other health impairments** are chronic or acute health problems that result in limited strength, vitality, or alertness. They usually don't require special education.

### What this means:

An **orthopedic impairment** is a physical ailment that can be hereditary, or caused by traumas or disease.

**Multiple disabilities** are when more than one severe disability is present. For example, the occurrence of several behavioral disorders, or asthma combined with learning disabilities.

A **traumatic brain injury** is an injury to the brain that is often caused by getting hit in the head, and can lead to memory loss, issues with cognition, etc.

**Other health impairments** are health problems such as asthma, epilepsy, AIDS, etc. that lead to exhaust or the inability to perform in school.

# Prevalence in Children:

Orthopedic impairments: 1.1% of students

Multiple disabilities: 2.2% of students

Traumatic brain injuries: 5-8% of students  
(However, many of these injuries do not lead to permanent damage)

Other health impairments: 7.6% of students  
(but this includes common conditions such as diabetes and asthma)



## Warning Signs:

- For **orthopedic impairments**, some signs of this disability can be physically seen. Some people are born with these impairments, while others occur from disease or traumas. IDEA categorizes orthopedic impairments into three categories: neuromotor, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, degenerative diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, and musculoskeletal disorders, such as limb deficiency, juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Some traumatic injuries include amputations and fractures and can affect a child's performance.
- **Multiple disabilities** can be caused by accidents, heredity, infections, premature birth, etc. Multiple disabilities are evaluated when more than one impairment is present.
- **Traumatic brain injuries** can sometimes be obvious when they occur since a hit to the head is most likely what caused it. Traumatic brain injuries are not always visible, as some are only internal and some are external.
- All "disabilities" that fall **other health impairments** are different in it's own way. For example, trouble breathing could mean that a child has asthma. All of these different impairments have drastically different warning signs.

## Strategies:

- **Orthopedic impairments:** Special seating arrangements can help to develop useful posture and movements and instruction can focus on the development of gross and fine motor skills.
- **Multiple disabilities:** It is important to use meaningful and interesting experiences as the basis for developing literacy. Using experiences from children's own lives are a great place to start. This can be done through memory boxes, journals, or the creation of language experience books.
- **Traumatic brain injury:** Strategies for students with difficulty with attention/concentration can include: reducing distractions in the students work area like removing extra pencils, and books and divide work into smaller sections. Strategies for students who have difficulty with memory, teachers should frequently repeat information and summarize it, and teach the student to categorize or chunk information to aid retention.
- **Other health impairments:** Allowing extra time for students to transition, allowing extra time for finishing assignments and tests, keep schedules consistent just to name a few.