

getting your belt hung, or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

## What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs of a concussion:

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE	SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Headache or "pressure" in head</li><li>• Nausea or vomiting</li><li>• Balance problems or dizziness</li><li>• Double or blurry vision</li><li>• Sensitivity to light</li><li>• Sensitivity to noise</li><li>• Feeling sluggish,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appears dazed or stunned</li><li>• Is confused about assignment or position</li><li>• Forgets an instruction</li><li>• Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</li><li>• Moves clumsily</li></ul>

the rules of the sport.

- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
  - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

## What should you do if you think your child has a concussion?

**SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY.** A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to regular activities, including sports.

**KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.** Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing—risk a greater chance of having a repeat concussion. Repeat or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.

**TELL YOUR CHILD'S COACH ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.** Coaches should know if your child had a