

IMPACT OF SEIZURES IN CHILDREN AND HOW TO SUPPORT THEM



WHAT ARE SEIZURES?

Seizures are unusual electrical activity in the brain that can cause changes to...

- Behaviour
- Physical
- Feelings
- Level of Consciousness

SIGNS ASSOCIATED WITH SEIZURES

- Blank staring, chewing, fumbling, wandering, shaking, and confused speech
- Jerking movements, stiffening of the body, loss of bladder control, sudden falls and uncontrollable bowel movements



BEHAVIOURAL CHALLENGES

- Inattentiveness, hyperactivity, irritability, verbal or physical aggression (could be a sudden outburst)
- May occur minutes to days before or after a seizure

COGNITIVE CHALLENGES

- Learning difficulties, language troubles, poor academic outcome
- Attention deficits and slow processing

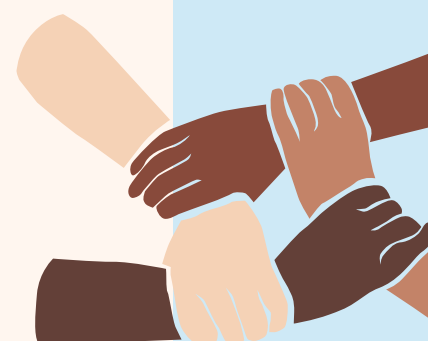


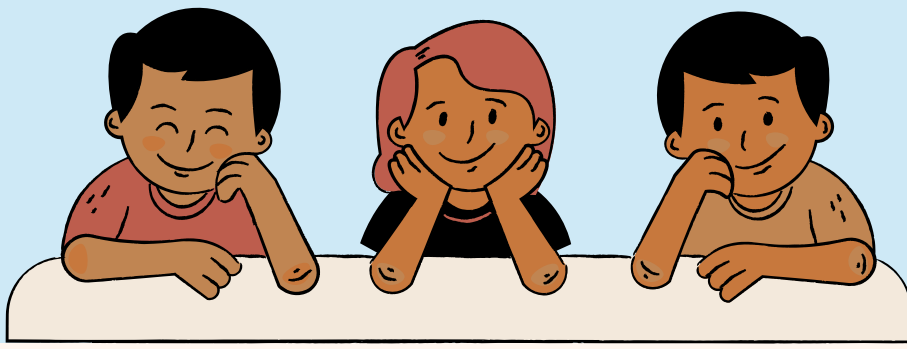
SOCIAL CONCERNS

- Children with seizures may have difficulty in social engagement and reduced quality of life
- Impact ability to maintain social relationships (e.g. family, friends, peers, etc.)

CREATING SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

- Explain what seizures are to classmates using age-appropriate language (use of visual aids, stories)
- Games and fun activities where children are able to express their feelings and connect with their peers





RESOURCES



Epilepsy Classroom | SickKids

Telephone: 416-813-8371

Fax: 416-813-8839

E-mail: elizabeth.kerr@sickkids.ca

Web:

<https://www.sickkids.ca/en/learning/patient-family-education/epilepsy-classroom/>



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Created by Gwyneth Cariaga, Trisha Garsain, and Nawal Mahamoud from the Humber-UNB BN program. No material in this pamphlet is intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your health care provider with any questions you may have. If you have any questions, please contact: (416)- 435-4873

