

Concussion Return to Learn (RTL) Protocol

Instructions:

- Keep brain activity below the level that causes worsening of symptoms (e.g., headache, tiredness, irritability).
- If symptoms worsen at any stage, stop activity and rest.
- Seek further medical attention if your child continues with symptoms beyond 7 days.
- If appropriate time is allowed to ensure complete brain recovery before returning to mental activity, your child may have a better outcome.
 - Do not try to rush through these stages.
- Please give this form to teachers/school administrators to help them understand your child's recovery.

Stage	Home Activity	School Activity	Physical Activity
Brain Rest/ Restful Home Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially sleep as much as needed (allow at least 8-10 hours of sleep) • Allow short naps during day (less than 1 hour at a time) • Move towards setting a regular bedtime/wake up schedule as symptoms improve • Avoid bright light if bothersome • Stay well-hydrated and eat healthy foods/snacks every 3-4 hours • Limit "screen time" (phone, computer, video games) as symptoms tolerate; use large font 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No school • No homework or take-home tests • May begin easy tasks at home (drawing, baking, cooking) • Soft music and 'books on tape' okay • Limit reading of hard-copy books as symptoms tolerate (e.g., short intervals of 10-15 min) • Once your child can complete 60-90 minutes of light mental activity without a worsening of symptoms they may go to the next step 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking short distances initially to get around is okay • As symptoms improve, progress physical activity, like vigorous walking • No strenuous exercise or contact sports • No driving
<i>Progress to the next stage when your child starts to improve, but may still have some symptoms</i>			
Return to School - PARTIAL DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a regular bedtime/wake up schedule • Allow 8-10 hours of sleep per night • Limit napping to allow for full sleep at night • Stay well-hydrated and eat healthy foods/snacks every 3-4 hours • Limit "screen time" and social activities outside of school as symptoms tolerate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually return to school • Sit in front of class • Start with a few hours/half-day • Take breaks in the nurse's office or a quiet room every 2 hours or as needed • Avoid loud areas (music, band, choir, shop class, locker room, cafeteria, loud hallway and gym) • Use brimmed hat/earplugs as needed • Use preprinted large font (18) class notes • Complete necessary assignments only • Limit homework time • No tests or quizzes • Multiple choice or verbal assignments better than long writing assignments • Tutoring or help as needed • Stop work if symptoms increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress physical activity and as instructed by physician • No strenuous physical activity or contact sports • No driving
<i>Progress to the next stage as symptoms continue to improve and your child can complete the activities listed above</i>			
Return to School - FULL DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 8-10 hours of sleep per night • Avoid napping • Stay well-hydrated and eat healthy foods/snacks every 3-4 hours • "Screen time" and social activities outside of school as symptoms tolerate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress to attending core classes for full days of school • Add in electives when tolerated • No more than 1 test or quiz per day • Give extra time or untimed homework/tests • Tutoring or help as needed • Stop work if symptoms increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress physical activity and as instructed by physician • No strenuous physical activity or contact sports • Okay to drive
<i>Progress to the next stage when your child has returned to full school and is able to complete all assignments/tests without symptoms</i>			
Full Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to normal home and social activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to normal school schedule and course load 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start CIF Return to Play Protocol