A NEW STUDY FOUND TEENS WITH BRAIN INJURIES NEED HELP RE-ADJUSTING TO SOCIAL SITUATIONS AND PEER ACCEPTANCE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THEIR LIVES. MORE IN THIS REPORT:

[VIDEO]

[ON-CAMERA INTERVIEW]
SOT & SUGGESTED SUPER:
LYN TURKSTRA, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

[AUDIO] [VOICEOVER] open
LYN TURKSTRA IS WORKING TO REHABILITATE TEENS WITH BRAIN INJURIES BEFORE THEIR LIVES SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL. TURKSTRA’S STUDY AT CASE WESTERN REERVE UNIVERSITY FOUND THAT BRAIN INJURED TEENS NEED TO REGAIN LOST SOCIAL SKILLS OR FACE REJECTION BY THEIR PEERS.

[INTERVIEW] “A lot of adolescents with brain injury have for example, difficulty picking up on social cues so they may not realize when a person’s being sarcastic. They may not realize when they’ve over-stayed their welcome and someone isn’t interested in what they have to say. Sometimes they aren’t very cohesive in how they tie a story together when they’re talking with their peers and other adolescents really do pick-up on these things and so a lot of adolescents with brain injury tend to not have friends.” (TRT :27)

-more-
[VIDEO]
Test video (full-screen) of 2 teen-aged males engaging in conversation. [Teen left portrays brain-injured / teen right, non-injured.]

[ON-CAMERA INTERVIEW]
LYN TURKSTRA
Turkstra testing female study participant. Cut to Turkstra.
Cut to test video (full-screen).
Cut to female study participant. Cut to Turkstra showing her test video.
Cut to black.

[AUDIO]
[VOICEOVER] bridge
MOST TEENS DON’T RECOGNIZE THE EXTENT OF THEIR BRAIN INJURIES AND GETTING THEM TO IDENTIFY INCORRECT SOCIAL BEHAVIORS CAN BE KEY TO RECAPTURING A MEASURE OF ACCEPTANCE BY OTHERS.

[INTERVIEW] “There’s a lot of social skills training for people who have social behavior problems after brain injury, but we’ve begun to see that regardless of whether a person has a skill or not, they might actually not be able to identify the right time to use it.”
(TRT :13)

[VOICEOVER] close
TURKSTRA’S STUDY IS GENERATING NEW COMMUNICATION THERAPIES AND THERAPY GROUPS FOR BRAIN DAMAGED TEENS. THIS IS IMPORTANT, SAYS TURKSTRA, BECAUSE SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE IN TEEN YEARS LEADS TO BETTER CHOICES IN DATING, MARRIAGE, AND EDUCATION, AND EVERY DEGREE OF IMPROVEMENT YIELDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AS AN ADULT. THIS IS TOM SHROUT REPORTING FROM CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, CLEVELAND.

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