Orthopedic Impairments (OI)

An orthopedic impairment is any impairment that is “a severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.” This includes impairments caused by a congenital anomaly, impairments caused by disease, and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputations, and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Characteristics

Considering the diversity in conditions that are embodied by the orthopedic impairments category, educational challenges will differ case by case, and the strategies used in each case should focus on a student’s unique needs.

Tips for Parents

- Learn about your child’s orthopedic impairment.
- Love and play with your child. Treat your son or daughter as you would a child without disabilities. Take your child places, read together, have fun.
- Learn from professionals and other parents how to meet your child’s special needs, but try not to turn your lives into one round of therapy after another.
- Keep informed about new treatments and technologies that may help.
- Learn about assistive technology that can help your child. This may include a simple communication board to help your child express needs and desires, or may be as sophisticated as a computer with special software.
- Be patient, keep up your hope for improvement. Your child, like every child, has a whole lifetime to learn and grow.

Resources


Project IDEAL  http://www.projectidealonline.org/v/orthopedic-impairments/