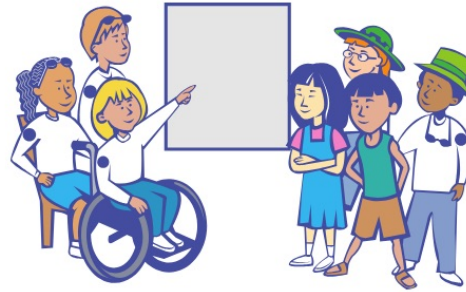


UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER

BY MADELINE LEFKOWITZ



FND⁶

A disorder in which there is an issue between the brain and the body's processing and functioning. The disorder affects people of all ages and presents differently in everyone. Onset may be gradual or sudden.

FND MIGHT LOOK LIKE⁶

- Motor disorders
- Seizures
- Chronic pain
- Speech difficulties
- Visual or hearing impairment
- Tics



THE IMPACT OF FND ON STUDENTS WITH THE DISORDER

- Symptoms may fluctuate and present differently throughout the day
- Environmental or internal stressors can exacerbate FND symptoms
- Difficulties with emotional expression
- Social isolation
- Difficulties with task completion
- Accessibility challenges

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

- Continue to educate yourself about FND
- Communicate directly and openly with families
- Accommodate and advocate for students and their accessibility needs
- Ask students how they are feeling that day if you notice changes in their symptoms and if they need more breaks or adjustments in their day



MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT FND

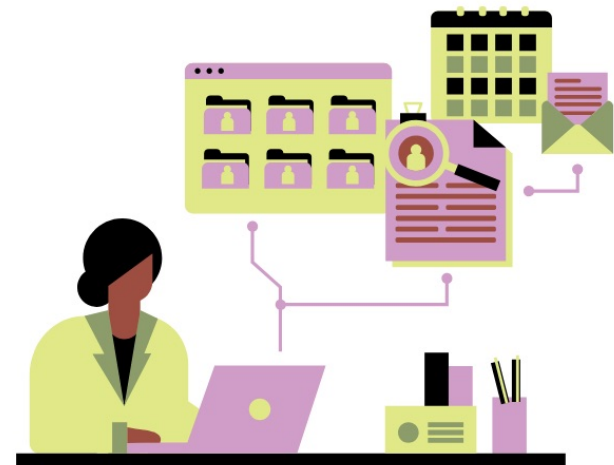


Students with FND are Malingering³⁴

Historically, many, including medical professionals, have accused folks with FND of faking their symptoms. Only in 2.2% of cases, there is a record of people with FND feigning symptoms. FND symptoms are real and cause a real impact on daily life activities.

“It’s all in their head”²

Due to the linkage between FND and psychological distress and the high overlap of psychological disorders and FND, it is a common misconception that FND is a psychological experience without true symptoms.



HELPFUL RESOURCE

FND Hope ⁵

An international organization that provides education about the latest research and services for people of all ages with FND and their support systems throughout the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Programming includes support groups, art workshops, and lectures.

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