

What is the efficacy of school re-entry programs after burn injury? A review of the literature

Loren West¹, Jeannine Millstead², Sarah McGarry³

1 Edith Cowen University Occupational Therapy, 270 Joondalup Drive Joondalup WA 6027, lwest@our.ecu.edu.au

2 Edith Cowen University Occupational Therapy, 270 Joondalup Drive Joondalup WA 6027, j.millstead@ecu.edu.au

3 Fiona Stanley Hospital Burns Unit, Level 4 102-118 Murdoch Dr Murdoch WA 6050, sarah.mcgarry@health.wa.gov.au

Introduction: This study aims to systematically review the efficacy of school re-entry programs in children and adolescents who have been hospitalized as a result of a burn injury.

Background: Studies have reported that children experience difficulty in social functioning, bullying at school and higher rates of anxiety and PTSD following burn injury.

Experiencing barriers to participation in school post burn injury could have implications for occupational functioning and wellbeing in the future. Attending school is a significant occupation for children and adolescents and returning to school as quickly and smoothly as possible is a primary goal of burn rehabilitation in children and adolescents.

Methods: A systematic review of the literature was carried out using six databases. Five articles were identified using set inclusion and exclusion criteria and were analysed.

Results: Findings from the review indicate that school re-entry programs result in increases in injury related knowledge; decreases in fear and anxiety upon returning to school; teachers, parents and children feeling supported; and maintenance of a connection to school whilst in hospital.

Conclusion: This analysis provides support for the effectiveness of school re-entry programs and will help to inform future interventions and return to school policies. More research into this area is necessary to gain a greater understanding of how best to support children when returning to school to improve health outcomes for those who sustain a burn injury.

Key Words

Paediatric, Burns, School Re-entry

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