

**Brooks Rehabilitation and the Jacksonville Jaguars Invite
Kids to Play Smart! Stay Safe!**

Free May 3 event focuses child safety

(JACKSONVILLE, FLA) – Brooks Rehabilitation and the Jacksonville Jaguars are teaming up to help children play safe and avoid head injuries. Together, they are hosting *Play Smart! Stay Safe!*, a free child safety event on May 3 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Jaguars' practice field. Kids ages 4-16 can get custom-fitted for a sports safety helmet. A suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated and will support Mothers Against Brain Injury. There will be activities for parents, too, with demonstrations on how to properly install child car seats.

"It doesn't take much to have a serious brain injury that can permanently change a child's life," says Marion Anderson, executive director of community health for Brooks Rehabilitation. "In fact, a child slowly riding a bike and falling only two feet can incur a traumatic brain injury. This event will show kids and parents how to play safe."

The event will feature Jaguars player Mike Peterson, and Jaxson de Ville will make a special appearance from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Kids and parents can enjoy clowns, refreshments and other games.

"The Jacksonville Jaguars know first hand the importance of protective equipment and how it can help reduce injuries," said Macky Weaver, Jaguars executive director of corporate sponsorship. "We want to help kids understand that wearing a helmet is not just for the football field. It is the best protection kids can have when riding a bike, scooter or skating."

According to Safe Kids USA, almost half of all children hospitalized for bike-related injuries suffer from a serious brain injury, and almost 60 percent of bicycle related deaths result from head injuries. Although wearing a helmet is the easiest way to reduce head injuries, only about 15 to 25 percent of kids wear helmets when riding a bike.

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About Brooks Rehabilitation

Serving the community for more than 35 years, Brooks has a long-standing tradition of providing quality inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation care to Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. The 143-bed acute physical rehab hospital is unique in the region with a highly trained staff and an unmatched range of services. Brooks has an extensive network of 25 outpatient centers as well as cutting-edge research facility which provide the best continuum of post-acute care possible to the communities served. More information on Brooks can be found at www.brooksrehab.org.

About Mothers Against Brain Injury

Mothers Against Brain Injury was created in 2005 to provide hope, comfort and information to families who have a loved one with a traumatic brain injury. The organization helps families through the crisis with "Totes of Comfort & Hope." Canvas totes containing personal toiletries, comfort items, useful tools, information on brain injury and stories of hope and encouragement from others with similar experience are distributed to immediate family members of any person suffering a traumatic brain injury within the first 48 hours of arrival at a trauma center. All 21 trauma centers in Florida are supplied the totes. Since its inception, Mothers Against Brain Injury has distributed more than 1,900 totes to family members.

