

Are You Treating a Child with a Combined Vision-Hearing Loss or Deafblindness?

Risk Factors and Behaviors Suggesting Possible Vision or Hearing Loss

Child with a risk factor for vision impairment:

- Cerebral palsy
- Congenital infection (such as CMV)
- Head trauma
- Hearing loss
- Hydrocephalus/Shunt
- Low birth weight (<3 pounds)
- Meningitis/Encephalitis
- Retinopathy of prematurity
- Seizures
- Syndromes associated with vision concerns

Child with a risk factor for hearing impairment:

- Bacterial meningitis
- Congenital infection (such as CMV)
- Craniofacial abnormalities
- Family history of hearing loss
- Head trauma
- Ototoxic medications (gentamycin, lasix, chemotherapy)
- Parental concern about their child's hearing
- Prematurity/NICU>5 days
- Speech/language delay
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss

Child with a risk factor related to a syndrome that causes deafblindness such as Usher, CHARGE, Marfan, Stickler, neurofibromatosis, Down, Prader-Willi, and Turner syndromes and others

If a child has a confirmed vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) refer the child and family to the:

Ohio Center for Deafblind Education
3246 Henderson Rd. • Columbus, OH 43220
614-897-0020 • www.ohiodeafblind.com

Do You Know a Child with Deafblindness?

What is Deafblindness?

Deafblindness affects 1 in every 734 children with special needs birth through 21 years.

The federal definition of deafblindness does NOT specify specific degrees of vision and hearing loss. Ohio's definition mirrors the federal definition:

Deafblindness means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

The Ohio definition for multiple disabilities includes the statement that "Multiple disabilities does not include deafblindness."

Use the chart on the inside of this brochure as a guide to consider whether a child should be registered on the OCDBE deafblind census and included in the national deafblind child count.

Remember, the chart is a guide only. For purposes of the deafblind census, a child does not have to meet specific degrees of vision and hearing loss to be included on the census if the combination of vision and hearing loss impacts a child's communication and other developmental and educational needs.

Go to www.ohiodeafblind.com and click on the green box- **Register a Child**- to complete the online registration process. A child registered with OCDBE, their families, and the educators and agency personnel who support them are eligible for services and supports from OCDBE.

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THE OHIO CENTER FOR

DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS GUIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DEAFBLINDNESS



**CE
CH**

Education
Criminal Justice
Human Services
Information Technology

 **Systems Development & Improvement Center**

Medical Professionals Guide for the Identification of Children with Deafblindness*

*also known as combined vision-hearing loss or dual sensory loss



Degree of Vision Loss (with correction)

Degree of Hearing Loss (with correction)

	Normal 20/20	Acuity 20/40-20/200	Acuity 20/200-20/400	Peripheral Fields <20 degrees	Visual Acuity 20/400-20/1000	Light Perception Only	Totally Blind
0-25dB-Normal	No Combined Vision and Hearing Loss						
26-40dB-Mild	No Combined Hearing and Vision Loss	Close vision and functional hearing	Reduced peripheral fields and functional hearing	Minimal vision and functional hearing	Blind and functional hearing		
41-55dB-Moderate		Close vision and unreliable hearing	Reduced fields unreliable hearing	Minimal vision and unreliable hearing	Blind and unreliable hearing		
56-70dB-Moderate to Severe		Close vision and very minimal hearing	Reduced fields and very minimal hearing	Minimal vision and very minimal hearing	Blind and very minimal hearing		
71-90dB-Severe		Close vision and deaf	Reduced fields and deaf	Minimal vision and deaf	Blind and deaf		
>91dB-Profound							

Hearing

Functional hearing - hearing aids, FM system, relies upon audition and speech for communication

Unreliable hearing - hearing aids, cannot rely only on audition for communication, may use sign language as main mode of communication

Very minimal hearing - cannot rely only on audition for communication, may use sign language, speech, speech reading, or a combination of all three

Deaf - no usable hearing for communication

Vision

Close vision - blurry vision, needs large print, needs to sit close to communicator

Reduced peripheral fields - good cortical vision, may wear glasses, cannot see well on sides, or above head or below waist

Minimal vision - can identify only shapes and shadows, uses adaptive equipment to aid vision in accessing printed material or the environment

Blind - no usable vision for accessing the environment

Are you treating a child who has both a vision and hearing loss?

In order to determine if a child has deafblindness and should register with the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE), follow these simple steps:

1. Find the child's degree of hearing loss along the left-hand column.
2. Find the child's degree of vision loss along the top of the page.
3. Find where the row and column intersect.
4. If the column and row intersect within the red lines, the child may be considered deafblind and should be registered on the OCDBE deafblind census and included in the national deaf-blind child count.
5. **Refer the family** to the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education so the child can be registered on the OCDBE deafblind census and included in the national deafblind child count.
6. **To register a child for the OCDBE deafblind census, go to www.ohiodeafblind.com home page and click on the green box, "Register a Child".** Registration is completed online.

