

## Do you suspect your child may have a vision, hearing, or combined vision-hearing loss?

### Concerning Behaviors of a Suspected Vision Loss

#### Any age:

1. Does not look at faces, give eye contact
2. Rubs eyes
3. Tilts/turns head to look at an object

#### By 3 months of age:

1. Does not notice objects above or below his/her head
2. Notices objects only on one side

#### By 5-6 months of age:

1. Does not visually follow moving objects
2. Does not reach for objects
3. Over- or under- reaches for objects
4. Seems unaware of self in mirror
5. Unaware of distant objects

#### Older ages:

1. Covers or closes one eye when looking
2. Does not look at pictures in books
3. Stops and steps/crawls over changes in floor texture
4. Trips over/bumps into things in path

### Concerning Behaviors of a Suspected Hearing Loss

1. Does not look/attend to voices or sounds
2. Asks "what" or "huh?" frequently
3. Asks people to repeat what they have said
4. Talks too softly or too loudly
5. Favors one ear/turns one ear to speaker
6. Difficulty localizing sounds
7. Needs to face the person speaking to understand what is being said
8. Speech and/or language delay
9. Articulation problems that are not improving

### If a Child has a Confirmed Vision and Hearing Loss

1. Discuss concerns with the child's pediatrician
2. If there is a confirmed vision-hearing loss, refer the child to the:

#### Ohio Center for Deafblind Education

614-897-0020  
www.ohiodeafblind.com

3. Refer the child to Help Me Grow (ages birth – 2) or your local school district (3 years of age or older)

## Does Your Child Have a Combined Vision-Hearing Loss also Known as Deafblindness?

### What is Deafblindness?

Deafblindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss that 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 your 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](http://www.ohiodeafblind.com) and click on the green box- **Register a Child**- to complete the online registration process. Students registered with OCDBE, their families, and the educators and agency personnel who support them are eligible for services and supports from OCDBE.

Ohio Center for Deafblind Education  
614-897-0020 • [www.ohiodeafblind.com](http://www.ohiodeafblind.com)

THE OHIO CENTER FOR  
  
DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

## PARENTS GUIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DEAFBLINDNESS



CE  
CH

Education  
Criminal Justice  
Human Services  
Information Technology

 Systems Development & Improvement Center

# Parents Guide for the Identification of a Child with Deafblindness\* for the National Deafblind Child Count

\*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	<b>No Combined Vision and Hearing Loss</b>						
26-40dB- Mild	<b>No Combined Hearing and Vision Loss</b>	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							

\*\* 20/200 is considered legally blind in Ohio.

### 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

## Does your child have both a vision and hearing loss?

To determine if your child should register with the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE) and be included in the national deafblind child count, 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, a child may be considered deafblind and should be registered with OCDBE and included on the national deafblind child count.
5. **To register a student for the OCDBE deafblind census** go to [www.ohiodeafblind.com](http://www.ohiodeafblind.com) home page and **click** on the green box, "Register a Child." Registration is completed online.

### OCDBE Services:

- No-cost training and annual parent retreat
- No-cost products and resources
- Scholarships to support family attendance at conferences and events
- Consultation and technical assistance
- Registration of children as part of the National Deafblind Child Count

