

THE OHIO CENTER FOR



DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

PARENTS GUIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CHILDREN WITH DEAFBLINDNESS



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

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Degree of Vision 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
	No Combined Vision and Hearing Loss						
Degree of Hearing Loss (with correction)	0-25dB- Normal						
	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						

** 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

Ohio Center for Deafblind Education • P: 614-897-0020 • www.ohiodeafblind.org

Adapted from: Morgan-Morrow, S. (2014). *Transition planning for young adults who are deaf-blind*.

New York: New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative.

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.org 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



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

3246 Henderson Rd., Columbus, OH 43220

614-897-0020

www.ohiodeafblind.org

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.org 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.

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