Deaf-Blindness

A student with deaf-blindness has both hearing and visual impairments that result in communication and other developmental, and educational needs that cannot be met in a program for deafness or a program for blindness.

**Characteristics**

Many combinations of sensory impairment are possible with deaf-blindness. Vision loss may be the primary disability, or auditory impairment may be the primary. The word “deaf-blindness” may seem as if a person cannot hear or see at all. The term actually describes a person who has some degree of loss in both vision and hearing. The amount of loss in either vision or hearing will vary from person to person. Students with deaf-blindness often have other physical or mental impairments.

**Tips for Parents**

- Encourage curiosity and explore new things and places often with your child. Give lots of opportunity to touch and investigate objects.
- Learn how to adapt your home.
- Encourage your child’s independence by letting him or her do things, rather than you doing them.

**Resources**

National Center on Deaf-Blindness  [https://nationaldb.org/](https://nationaldb.org/)

Center for Parent Information and Resources  [http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/deafblindness/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/deafblindness/)

Texas Project FIRST  [http://texasprojectfirst.org/node/149](http://texasprojectfirst.org/node/149)


FAQs about deaf-blindness  [http://www.aadb.org/FAQ/faq_DeafBlindness.html](http://www.aadb.org/FAQ/faq_DeafBlindness.html)