

For more information-

If you suspect a child has both hearing and vision impairments, please contact Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project for further information and referral.

Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project

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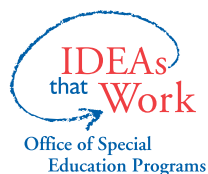
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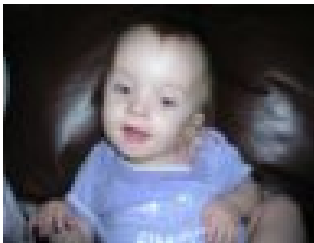
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Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project



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**Technical Assistance Services
for Children and Young Adults
Who Are Deaf-Blind**



What does Deaf-Blind mean?

Deaf-Blindness is a condition in which both a hearing and vision loss are present at the same time.* The combined effect of these losses, **even if both are mild**, creates unique challenges for the individual that can not be addressed solely within a special education program for the deaf or special education program for the blind.

Deaf-Blindness affects more than 10,000 children between birth and 22 years of age in the United States. It affects more than 100 children in the state of Mississippi.

Deaf-Blindness has more than 70 known causes, including Usher's Syndrome, CHARGE Syndrome, Meningitis, and Rubella Syndrome. Within each of these etiologies, there are specific concerns that carry lifelong challenges. Appropriate education must address both the hearing and vision impairment, as well as any other disabilities that may be present.

*Federal definition of Deaf-Blindness: Concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination which creates such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education in programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness. FR Dept. of Education, 34 CFR Parts 300 & 303. Vol. 64, No.48.3/12/99

What is the Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project?

The Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project provides training and assistance to families, administrators, educators, and service providers of children (birth to 22) who have both a hearing and vision impairment. Services are funded through a federal grant and are offered at no cost to families, educators, administrators, and service providers of these children.

All services are confidential and are provided at the request of families, educators, administrators, and service providers.



Mississippi Deaf-Blind Registry

Project staff maintains a registry of individuals, birth to 22 years of age, who have, or are suspected to have, **both** vision and hearing losses.

This registry helps to shape the locations and types of technical assistance provided. The Mississippi Registry information is compiled by the National Technical Assistance Consortium (NTAC) with registry information from all states for a national census. Families of children over 21 are provided information on how to link to the Helen Keller National Center services.

Mississippi Deaf-Blind Project

Who is eligible?

Children, birth to 22 years, with varying degrees of hearing and vision losses are eligible. Very few children who qualify for services are **totally** deaf and blind. Qualified individuals may have additional disabilities, such as cognitive or motor disabilities, and medical conditions.

Who can request services?

Any family member or service provider of a child, birth to 22 years, with both vision and hearing losses can request services.

Services

Resource Library with materials on a range of topics:

- Receptive/Expressive Communication
- Orientation and Mobility
- Functional/Age Appropriate Activities
- Active Engagement
- Functional Implications of Vision/Hearing Loss
- Transition Planning
- Early Identification and Assessment
- Behavior Issues
- IFSP/IEP Planning/Implementation

Dissemination of information on best practices related to deaf-blindness.

Maintaining a Web site linking to additional resources.

Training and Technical Assistance

Project staff provides training on topics listed above and travels on-site to offer individual technical assistance to families and service providers.

A Family Training Program, Project SPARKLE: Parents have access to information, training, and resources in their homes via DVD technology and the internet.

Conducting an annual needs assessment in order to maintain quality services.