



OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

June 2023

Deafblind Awareness Week

June 25 - July 1, 2023

Deafblind Awareness Week is observed the last week of June each year and is designed to raise awareness about people who are deafblind.

Deaf-blindness is a rare condition in which an individual has combined hearing and vision loss, thus limiting access to both auditory and visual information. Most children who are deafblind have some usable vision and/or hearing. Some are profoundly deaf and totally blind. Although no

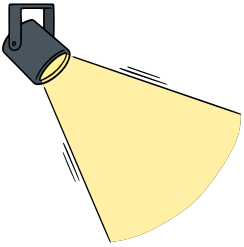
two children who are deafblind are alike, many share similar needs. Children who are deafblind make up one of the most diverse and complex of all disability groups. More than 70 causes have been identified for deafblindness. The leading cause of deafblindness is due to Hereditary Syndromes/Disorders.

-National Center on Deaf-Blindness

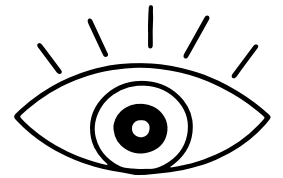
FACTS

Deafblindness

- **Approximately 10,000 children in the United States have been identified as deafblind**
 - *Many more have not been identified and in some instances may be considered: Deaf plus, Visually Impairment or having Multiple Disabilities*
- **Of Children with deafblindness, 85% have one or more additional disabilities.**
- **Approximately 1% of children who have deafblindness have profound hearing loss and total blindness. The remaining 99% have some usable hearing or vision.**



Disability Highlight: *Visual Impairment*



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines visual impairment including blindness "as an impairment in vision that, even with correction, adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes both partial sight and blindness."

To support students in the classroom...

- Provide special seating arrangements
- Keep walkways and pathways in the classroom open and free of obstacles
- Provide additional time to complete assignments and assessments as well as provide additional time for transitions
- Allow verbal responses for assignments or tests to measure learning outcomes
- Text may need to be enlarged, presented via assistive technology (i.e. audio books or computer) or provided to the student in Braille.

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Summer Engagement Tips



Summertime is a great time to relax and spend time with family and friends. In addition, summer also presents opportunity for learning and engagement. Here are some engagement tips to promote learning throughout the summer months:

- **Establish a Routine.** Routines provide structure and predictability, which are vital for all of our children. Having an orderly, yet flexible, schedule for the day will help your child become more independent.
- **Read Every Day.** Take your kids to the library often and let them choose which books to check out. Listen to books on tape. Take turns reading to each other.
- **Practice Math Daily.** Practice the multiplication tables by making each basket in a basketball game worth 7 points (or 8 or 9). Ask your kids to make change at the drive-thru.
- **Get Outside and Play.** Find ways to ensure your child is active for 60 minutes each day.

THANK
YOU

**Thank you parents and guardians
for your commitment and
involvement towards your
student's education!**