



Which Infants and Toddlers Might Qualify for the National Deaf-Blind Child Count?

Any infant or toddler who is suspected of having both a vision and hearing loss may qualify for **services provided at NO COST** to early intervention teams.

This includes infants and toddlers who are at risk for having a combined vision and hearing loss due to:

- A **hereditary syndrome or disorder**, such as CHARGE Association or CHARGE syndrome, Down syndrome, Trisomy 13, Usher syndrome, Goldenhar syndrome
- **Pre and post-natal conditions**, such as Fetal Alcohol syndrome, congenital infections (syphilis, rubella, CMV, toxoplasmosis, herpes, AIDS/HIV), IVH (brain bleed), PVL (periventricular leukomalacia), hydrocephalus, microcephaly, meningitis, encephalitis, asphyxia
 - Severe **head injury** and/or direct **trauma to the eye and ear**
 - **Premature birth**
 - **Family history** of both vision and hearing loss
 - **Multiple disabilities**

It also includes infants and toddlers with a documented or suspected vision or hearing loss who demonstrate behaviors that might indicate a combined sensory loss. Some of these behaviors include:

- Balance problems, bumping into or tripping over objects
- Inconsistent responses to sounds or visual images
- Light gazing
- Tactile sensitivity
- Overactive startle response
- Communication by biting, hitting self or others, throwing objects, screaming, etc.

Taken from: ***The Sooner the Better: Effective Strategies for Identifying Infants and Young Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss***; Barbara Purvis

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