Which Infants and Toddlers Might Qualify for the National DeafBlind Census?

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.

If you suspect dual sensory losses, please contact the DeafBlind Project

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

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Project Officer Rebecca Sheffield. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and endorsement by the Federal Government should not be assumed.

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