

# National Center on Deaf-Blindness



## Families Matter to NCDB!

NCDB knows that families are the one consistent influence in their children's lives and the true experts in what they need for learning and development. To help families support their child's educational journey, NCDB, in collaboration with state deaf-blind projects and national family organizations, has developed a number of resources.

Visit our site to find the most current information on deaf-blindness and explore multiple learning opportunities in the following areas:

- ❖ **Family Engagement** – Family-to-family connections and support
- ❖ **Early Identification and Referral** – Finding and serving children early
- ❖ **Literacy** – Early communication and literacy development
- ❖ **Transition** – Preparing for a happy, successful adult life
- ❖ **Interveners and Qualified Personnel** – Knowledgeable teachers and other service providers

## WAYS TO ENGAGE AND LEARN

### **NCDB Library ([nationaldb.org/library](https://nationaldb.org/library))**

A large collection of online resources on all aspects of deaf-blindness. Browse by topic or research specific questions.

### **Recursos En Español ([nationaldb.org/pages/show/recursos-en-espanol](https://nationaldb.org/pages/show/recursos-en-espanol))**

NCDB Library resources translated into Spanish.

### **Open Hands, Open Access: Deaf-Blind Intervener Modules ([moodle.nationaldb.org](https://moodle.nationaldb.org))**

A series of 27 online modules designed to train interveners. Also a great resource for parents—you can sign up for free and work through them at your own pace.

### **For Families ([nationaldb.org/families](https://nationaldb.org/families))**

Links to resources especially for families, including state and national organizations and state deaf-blind projects and our *Families Matter* video series (each featuring a different family).

### **Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/nationaldb>)**

Follow NCDB on Facebook! We post stories, interesting resources, and "family fun facts."

## CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND

Although the term deaf-blind implies a complete absence of hearing and sight, in reality it refers to varying degrees of hearing and vision loss. The type and severity differ from person to person, but the key feature of this condition is that the combination of losses significantly limits an individual's ability to access auditory and visual information. The majority of children who are deaf-blind also have additional physical or cognitive disabilities or health problems.

When both vision and hearing are affected, especially from birth or early in life, natural opportunities to learn and communicate are severely limited. As a result, children who are deaf-blind require specialized teaching methods and intensive, individualized education and accommodations from infancy through young adulthood.

It is essential that families and educators have access to training and support regarding the assessment and education of infants, children, and youth who are deaf-blind. Each state has a federally funded technical assistance project to provide this training and support. You can find contact information for the deaf-blind project in your state at [nationaldb.org](http://nationaldb.org).



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