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 **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.

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ADD DB-PROJECT INFORMATION, PART C PROGRAMS, OTHER AGENCIES

Taken from: ***The Sooner the Better: Effective Strategies for Identifying Infants and Young Children with***

***Combined Vision and Hearing Loss;* Barbara Purvis, M.Ed., National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, Sept 2007.**

