

## 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.

For more information, please contact:

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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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