

Get Their Vision Tested, Too!



Deaf and hard of hearing children are highly dependent on their vision.* But what happens when a child can't rely on their vision because it's reduced, distorted, or missing?

Combined hearing and vision loss creates a unique disability—deafblindness—which impacts how a child accesses, understands, and interacts with the world.

Why Test the Vision of a Child Who Is D/HH?

Early identification of deafblindness activates critical referral efforts. A child who is deafblind requires

- A team of specially-trained providers and support staff who understand how children who are deafblind learn and communicate
- Educational strategies different from those of a child who is D/HH or one who is blind/visually impaired
- Referral to specialists who can determine the degree and severity of vision and hearing loss and the presence or absence of additional disabilities
- Individualized support services designed to address the child's unique needs and abilities
- Environments and technology that provide access to information and learning

Any infant or toddler who is identified as D/HH should have their vision tested right away.

For more resources, visit nationaldb.org



**National Center
on Deaf-Blindness**

**Visual development in the early years is ongoing, and a problem can develop later that was not initially identified.*