



Montana Deaf-Blind Project Referral Checklist

How do I know when to refer a child?

Important note: The child does NOT need to be totally blind and/or totally deaf.

Refer any child who has any one of these:

Vision loss ranging from low vision (20/70 in the best eye with correction) to blindness, or a documented progressive or functional loss, including Cortical Visual Impairment **AND**

- Hearing loss, which can be permanent or fluctuating, unilateral or bilateral, ranging from mild (26-40dB) to profound, or a documented progressive or functional loss.

A combination of these losses that impacts communication, development, and educational needs.

A diagnosed syndrome or pathology that impacts hearing and vision now or in the future.

Multiple disabilities that impact central processing abilities as demonstrated by inconclusive vision and hearing responses during evaluations or in their natural environment.

Please note:

- Many students have additional disabilities or complex health care needs. (87% of children with deaf-blindness also have additional disabilities.)
- Students do NOT have to have deaf-blindness listed as an eligibility category on their IEP. (Federal IDEA Part C and Part B child counts include children as deaf-blind only when deaf-blindness is their single disability.)

To refer, or when in doubt, contact the Montana Deaf-Blind Project!

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