



Bathtime

Children who are DeafBlind learn best when they can use many senses, especially touch. Based on a child's unique hearing and vision loss, they may not always see or hear what is happening around them and may miss important clues that other children notice.

Prepare your child by giving cues for what you are going to do **before** you do it.

Using tactile or sensory cues and a slow pace helps children feel safe and calm. When caregivers know what to watch for and are responsive to children's cues they build a trusting relationship. When children know what to expect, they can relax, communicate, and take part in bathtimes and other daily routines.



WHAT TO SAY AND/OR SIGN

WHAT TO TRY

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

"Time for a bath."

Give your child a washcloth and sign "bath" on their body.

Child might get excited and get ready for bath.

"I hear the water. Time to take off your clothes."

Sign and say "off" to let them know it's time to undress.

Child might take off his shirt.

"Wash your arm."

Let your child smell/feel the washcloth with soap.

Child holds arm out to be washed.

"Do you want your duck or your cups?"

Offer your child the toys and let them choose.

Child reaches for the item they want.

"Time to wash your hair."

Gradually pour water up from hand to shoulder working towards their head.

Child might pull away if scared.

"All done."

Let your child help you pull the plug for the water.

Child may sign all done.

End bathtime the **same** way each time so your child learns when they are done.

