



Personal Identifiers

WHAT IS A PERSONAL IDENTIFIER?

A personal identifier, sometimes called a name cue, is a unique, consistent object you can use to support children who are DeafBlind with identifying who you are as you come into their space. A child with DeafBlindness may not hear or see a person approach. Close family members often do not need a personal identifier as their children are familiar with them, but others may need one. (aunts, uncles, cousins, providers, childcare providers).

WHY ARE PERSONAL IDENTIFIERS IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAFBLIND?

- Personal identifiers teach the child that touch has meaning and reinforce other tactile communication systems such as touch cues and object cues.
- Personal identifiers fosters trust by ensuring others are not moving in and out of a child's world without the child knowing.
- Personal identifiers foster social interaction by letting the child know who is in their environment so they can communicate.

WHAT SHOULD I USE AS MY PERSONAL IDENTIFIER?

Use something that is unique to you that you can easily have with you each time you greet the child. Make sure all providers use a distinctly different personal identifier. A name badge may not be a good choice because many therapists and teachers wear them. A personal identifier is something that doesn't change over time (i.e. hair length) but rather stays consistent and available.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Bracelet
- Ring
- Watch
- Hair tie
- Necklace
- Eye glasses

HOW DO I INTRODUCE MYSELF USING A PERSONAL IDENTIFIER?

- Allow the child to initiate interaction.
- Provide a comforting touch.
- Use hand under hand to guide the child to your personal identifier.
- Quietly say your name and provide a tactile name sign.

