



North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Exceptional Children Division

Do you know a child or family of a child,
birth to 21, *with both vision and hearing loss?*

FREE supports and services may be available!

WHAT IS Deaf-blindness?

Deaf-blindness is the **combination** of functional, medical or progressive vision and hearing loss which may interfere with a child's ability to:

- communicate and interact with others;
- access information; or
- move about safely and efficiently in familiar and unfamiliar settings.

The type and severity of the combined losses differs from child to child and can have a significant impact on their development and learning. A child with deaf-blindness **does not** have to be totally deaf and blind.

In addition to deaf-blindness, many children may also have an other disability or diagnosis:

- Intellectual disability
- CHARGE syndrome
- Usher syndrome
- Sensory integration disorder
- Down syndrome, and others, etc.

AVAILABLE Services?

All services are provided to eligible children, their families and educators at no cost!

- Educational training for families, educators and service providers
- Assistance in developing education and transition plans
- Technical Assistance for education personnel in school, home and community settings
- Family networking opportunities through in-person events, phone calls, social media, etc.
- Information and resources for community, medical and adult services

WHO IS Eligible?

Children, birth to 21, with a combination of vision and hearing loss, OR with degenerative conditions that may lead to deaf-blindness may be eligible for services. Services begin when the child is placed on the **NC Census** by their teacher or early childhood service coordinator. The Census is a written record of all the children in NC who are eligible for services. It is maintained by NC DPI / Exceptional Children Division and updated annually.

GETTING HELP Early is Important!

- Hearing and vision are essential to a child's early development.
- Learning begins at birth, but supports and services can start at any age.

WHERE CAN I Get More Information?

Program information, NC Census and eligibility questions, or technical support:

Dottie Snyder, Project Director

919-807-3987 or Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov

Teacher Support Program | ECU

Sandra Warren, 252-328-2699 or warrens@ecu.edu

Family Support Program | ECAC

Debra Pickens, 1-800-962-6817 or dpickens@ecacmail.org

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