

Combined Vision and Hearing Loss May Mean More Than You Think!

Did you know?

- Vision and hearing are critically linked to early childhood development especially during a child's first three years.
- Your child learns about things and people in the environment by watching and hearing them come and go.
- Major nerve pathways are formed in the brain during early childhood. Much of what the brain receives during this time comes from vision and hearing (the distance senses).

Why should my child be tested now? Can't we wait until he or she is bigger?

- Brain development slows down after age 3, which means it may take longer for your child to learn important new skills.
- When there is a loss of vision and hearing - or both - it affects all areas of your child's learning.
- Even mild losses have huge impact on learning and development.
- It is important for your child to learn how to make up for what is being missed, especially if your child has other medical or developmental challenges.
- Parents and providers often sense that something is not right. **Trust your instincts! Insist that hearing and vision be tested.**
- The sooner the better! Early identification of a combined hearing and vision loss is critical to ensure you receive the support needed to address your child's unique learning needs.



 <p>PROJECT REACH: Illinois Deaf-Blind Services</p> <p><i>Serving youth who are deaf-blind, their families, and their schools</i></p>	<p>Michelle Clyne, Coordinator 818 DuPage Blvd. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 630-790-2474 (voice) mclyne@philprockcenter.org</p>
---	--

This resource was developed by Emma Nelson, VT Sensory Access Project. Content adapted from: Newton, Gigi & Moss, Kate (2001). *Early Identification of Hearing and Vision Loss is Critical to a Child's Development*. TSBVI. See/Hear. Retrieved from <http://www.tsbvi.edu/resources/2144-early-identification-of-hearing-and-vision-loss-is-critical-to-a-childs-development>