

# 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.



**PROJECT REACH:**  
Illinois DeafBlind Services

*Serving youth who are DeafBlind, their families,  
and their schools*

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