

DEAF/BLINDNESS **RESOURCES, DEFINITION & CRITERIA**

Local Resources

Missouri School for the Blind
314-776-4320
www.msb.dese.mo.gov
Offers educational and outreach services for legally blind Missouri children from birth through age 21 and their families.

Missouri Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Project
Missouri School for the Blind
314-776-4320
<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/outreach-services/what-mdtap-is.html>
Provides technical assistance for early intervention services including identification, referral, assessment, training, family support and service coordination.

State Resources

MPACT (Missouri Parents Act)
800-743-7634
Trains and supports parents so they can effectively advocate for their children's educational rights and services.
www.missouriparentsact.org

National Resources

American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB)
<http://www.aadb.org/>
National advocacy organization provides technical assistance to persons who are deaf-blind and their families, educators and service providers.

National Center on Deaf-Blindness
www.nationaldb.org
Federally-funded information and referral service that identifies, coordinates and disseminates at no cost information related to children and youth who are deaf-blind and ages 0 to 21. Responds to questions related to early intervention, parents/families, education, social supports, health, employment, legal issues, transition and independent living.

Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind
www.hknc.org
National program provides diagnostic evaluation, short-term comprehensive rehabilitation and personal adjustment training, and work experience and placement to youth and adults with deaf-blindness.

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind
www.nfadb.org
National network of families focusing on issues of deaf-blindness. Advocacy, information and referral, quarterly newsletter.

Tips for Developing Good Communication

- Establish predictable routines with clear beginnings and ends
- Give choices
- Provide opportunities to make choices
- Remember to offer pauses
- Watch for cues
- Use appropriate cues

Parent Handbook — Section IV

- Invent your own games
- Take advantage of "accidents"
- Encourage use of all sensory information
- Adapt the environment
- Help your child interpret the limited sights and sounds that are available
- Monitor levels of stimulation
- Help your child interact with others

Communication systems for persons who are deaf-blind:

- Touch cues
- Gestures
- Object symbols
- Picture symbols
- Sign language
- Fingerspelling
- Signed English
- Pidgin Signed English
- Braille writing and reading
- Tadoma method of speech reading
- American Sign Language
- Large print writing and reading
- Lip-reading speech

(From DB-Link Fact Sheets)

DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FROM APPENDIX A OF THE MISSOURI STATE PLAN

Deaf/Blindness Definition

“Deaf/Blindness” means concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or children with blindness.

Criteria for Initial Determination of Eligibility

A child is deaf/blind when:

A. Both visual and hearing impairments are present;

B. The impairments together cause severe communication, developmental, and educational needs.