

INDIANA DEAFBLIND SERVICES PROJECT  
LOAN LIBRARY

The Indiana Deafblind Services Project maintains a loan library with over 600 books, videotapes and other items specific to children who have deafblindness and/or other disabilities. Materials are available for checkout to Indiana residents and cover a range of topics including: Assessment, Communication, Curriculum, Early Childhood, Employment, Family, Inclusion, Medical, Skills, Technology, and Transition.

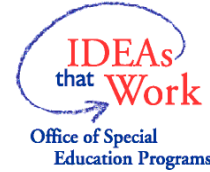
The library is on-line at <http://isu1.indstate.edu/deafblind>. You can search the library by keyword, subject, author or title. You can read descriptions of the items, select the ones that you would like to checkout and fill out a short form to request checkout. The typical loan period is four weeks. If the item you would like to request is listed as "not available", send an e-mail to DB@indstate.edu indicating your interest. You will be placed on a waiting list for the materials and they will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Indiana Deafblind Services Project  
Deafblind Focus  
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# Deafblind Focus

Volume 18 No. 2

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INDIANA DEAFBLIND SERVICES PROJECT  
2007 CHILD COUNT

Each year the Indiana Deafblind Services Project conducts a count of children and youth (birth – 21 years of age) who are deafblind, or at risk for deafblindness, within the state of Indiana. This is done in conjunction with the Indiana Division of Exceptional Learners annual December 1 child count. Soon, the information on the 2007 December 1 child count will arrive on many of your desks, prompting many questions about students who are deafblind and the count itself. Are you uncertain about **who** qualifies as a student with deafblindness (even if they are not reported as deafblind to the state)? Or **why** you should report students as deafblind to our Project? Or **how** you report students to the Project? If so, you are not alone and we want to try to answer your questions here.

"Most people who are deafblind have both usable vision and usable hearing."

Most people who are deafblind have both usable vision and usable hearing. When hearing the word deafblind, most people will immediately think of Helen Keller who was completely deaf and totally blind. It is important to

understand that persons like Helen Keller make up only about 6% of the total group that is considered to be "deafblind."

A person is considered to be deafblind if they have both a documented vision and hearing impairment, ranging from mild to severe or, they function as if they have both a hearing and vision loss, based upon inconsistent responses to the environment or inconclusive responses during hearing and vision exams. A conclusion that a child is functionally deafblind may be based on an educational evaluation for purposes of initially reporting that child to the Deafblind

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FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Families want and need to be involved in their child's education and advocate in their child's best interest. They are the ones that know their child best. In order to help provide families with the information and support that they need, the Indiana Deafblind Services Project provides funds in the form of Family Scholarships. The scholarships can be used to assist with the cost of attending workshops and conferences.

Family Scholarships are available to families of children who are reported on the Project's deafblind census. These family scholarships may be used one time per year to attend workshops or conferences on deafblindness or an approved related topic.

In order to apply for a Family Scholarship, you can download the form at <http://www.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/dbfam.html> or contact:

Sharon Bryan  
Indiana Deafblind Services Project  
Toll Free: 800-622-3035  
Email: SharonBryan@indstate.edu

**INDIANA DEAFBLIND SERVICES PROJECT  
2007 CHILD COUNT**  
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Project. To illustrate the wide range of differences in hearing and vision losses, as well as student abilities, several examples are provided.

**Meet Josh . . .**

Josh was born at 23 weeks and weighed 1 lb., 4 oz. He has a profound hearing loss, but, sometimes, he does turn toward sounds. Josh has no vision in his left eye due to a detached retina; however, he seems to have some usable vision in his right eye. Now, at a year old, he doesn't crawl, but scoots on his back or rolls. Josh is deafblind.



**This is Penny . . .**

Penny is an eighteen year old high school student. Penny, like most girls her age, loves swimming, amusement park rides, eating morning, noon, and night, manicures, and riding horses. Penny also is an accomplished artist. She especially enjoys making pottery. Penny has Leber Congenital Amaurosis. Because of this, Penny has both vision and hearing losses and uses both a walker and a wheelchair. Penny is totally blind. She also has a profound bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, however, her parents believe that she hears better with her left ear than her



right ear. Penny wears a hearing aid in her left ear to amplify environmental sounds. Penny is deafblind.

**Say Hi! to Allie . . .**

Allie is now 4 years old. At the age of 1, tests indicated that she had a moderate sensorineural hearing loss. She also has a coloboma in her right eye; although, it has not been determined how much vision she currently has. Allie also has blockages in her nasal passages, a heart defect and has always been small for her age. She has CHARGE Syndrome. Allie is considered deafblind.



As you can see, there is tremendous variety in the degrees of vision and hearing loss, and a great range of individual abilities in just these three children. If a teacher had a classroom with 20 different students who are considered to be deafblind, there would be 20 different degrees of vision and hearing, 20 different levels of ability, 20 different physical abilities and so on. That is why it is important to look carefully at those students with vision and hearing impairments when you are responding to the December 1 child count. In addition, please remember that it is acceptable to report a student under a different category for state reimbursement and still report them directly to our project as eligible for our services, if they have **both** a hearing and vision impairment and are under 22 years of age.

So now you are asking, “**Why** should I report a student to the Indiana Deafblind Services Project?” Put simply, because it will allow you to access free services and resources. We understand that this is a busy time of year for each of you and this is another report that we are asking you to complete. However, by reporting a child to the Indiana Deafblind Services Project census, you have made that child, his or her family, and the teachers

and related service providers in your school eligible for free services from the project. Our services include:

- Child Focused Consultations,
- Inservice Training Activities,
- Family Scholarship Funds,
- Family Learning Weekends,
- a Parent/Professional Loan Library,
- Usher Syndrome Screening Training,
- Person Centered Planning Training,
- On-Line Training Modules, and
- a Statewide Newsletter.

Once a student is reported to us, anyone working with that child may request services from the project. Services can range from a one-time request for resources to on-going intensive technical assistance.

In addition, the child count information is vital to planning and implementing services for children who are deafblind on a state and national level. The Deafblind Count is collected annually on December 1 and is considered a “snapshot” of the children and youth who fit the definition of being deafblind as of that date. The Indiana Project uses that information when planning activities and trainings. Deafblind Projects across the United States collect this data and submit it to the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness to be compiled into the National Deaf-Blind Census. The information is then used at a national level when looking at funding priorities and national programs for students with deafblindness.

Now that you understand “who” you should report and “why”, we can move on to “how”. For some of you, this will be just a matter of turning in students as dual sensory impaired on your normal December 1 CODA report; others may need to send the December 1 census forms directly to the Project. Once again, remember that it is acceptable to report a student under a different category for reimbursement and still report them directly to our project as eligible for our services, if they have **both** a hearing and vision impairment. In addition, anyone can report new students throughout the year by contacting the Indiana Deafblind Services Project. The information is completely confidential and

no names or identifying information is submitted to the federal government.

If you have questions about who qualifies as deafblind, please contact:

Lisa Poff  
Indiana Deafblind Services Project  
Toll Free: 800-622-3035  
TTY: 812-237-3022  
Email: lpoff@indstate.edu

**ON-LINE TRAINING MODULES**

The Indiana Deafblind Services Project, in conjunction with experts in the field, has developed a series of training modules for teachers, parents and paraprofessionals working with students who are deafblind. These modules are tied to Indiana Professional Standards for teachers and the objectives from the *Competencies for Teachers of Learners Who Are Deafblind* that was developed by members from the Perkins National Deafblind Training Project. They can be reviewed for general knowledge or, when completed in full with all of the associated assignments, can be taken for CRUs or credit toward Indiana Professional Development Portfolios. Current module titles include:

- Collaboration Achieves Travel Success Module
- Introduction to Learners with Deafblindness
- Learners who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Learners with Low Vision and/or Blindness
- Person Centered Planning Module 1: Understanding the Process
- Person Centered Planning Module 2: Using the Process to Achieve Better Student Outcomes

For your convenience, the modules have been posted to our website. A list of module titles with links to each can be found at <http://web.indstate.edu/soe/blumberg/dbtrainingmod.html>.