



Communicating with children who are deafblind

When interacting with a child who is deafblind it is important to remember:

- Approach the child from the front
- Greet the child by saying their name
- Introduce yourself to the child
- Ensure that you don't stand with your back to the window or light source
- Keep background noise to a minimum
- Talk to the child, pause allowing time for the child to process information
- Let the child know when you are leaving the room

For some children you may:

- Gently, but firmly, touch the back of the child's hand or their shoulder to gain their attention
- Learn some basic signs

The way a child communicates will vary depending on their level of vision and hearing and whether they have additional disabilities. Talk to the child's family or carer for specific information about the child and their communication methods.