



# What is deafblindness?



easy  
read

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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



The World Federation of the Deafblind works around the world to speak up for the **rights** of people with **deafblindness**.



**Rights** are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



**Deafblindness** is a disability where you have a serious difficulty with both your hearing and your eyesight.

Deafblindness is a disability that is different from other disabilities.



We have written this Easy Read information to explain more about deafblindness.

# How deafblindness affects people



Deafblindness makes it hard to:

- meet up with friends and family.



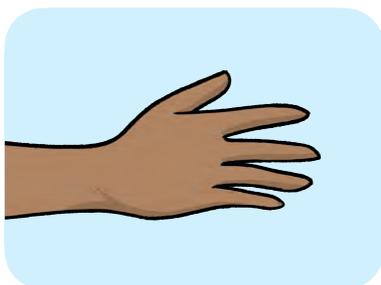
- share information, ideas and feelings with people.



- get the information you need.



- move around safely.



## Touch

People with deafblindness often share information, ideas and feelings by touching.



## Severe or mild

Some people have severe deafblindness. This is where you have very little or no hearing and eyesight.



Other people have mild deafblindness. This is where you have some hearing and some eyesight.

How severe your deafblindness is depends on:

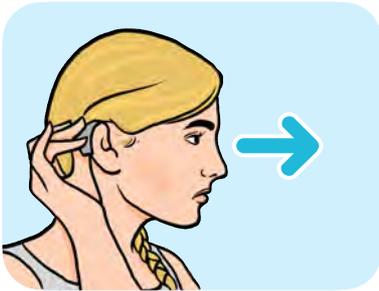
- the time in your life when you started with deafblindness.
- what is causing your deafblindness.
- whether you were born with deafblindness or not.
- whether you have other disabilities as well.
- whether it is getting worse or not.



# A different disability



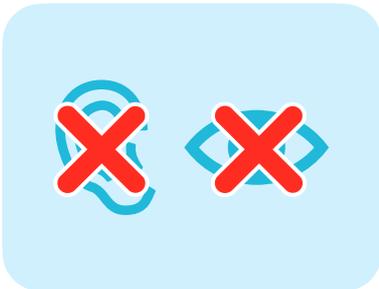
Deafblindness is a disability that is different from other disabilities.



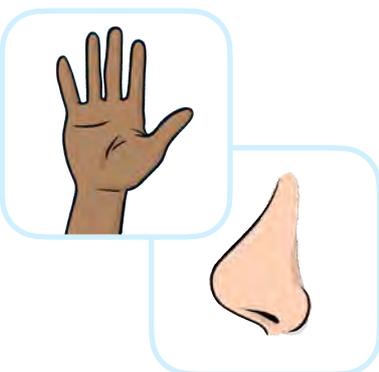
People who are deaf use their eyesight to help them communicate with others.



People who are blind use their hearing to help them understand things.



People with deafblindness cannot do either of these things.

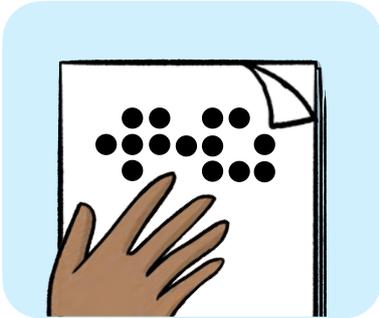


People with deafblindness have to:

- touch things and people.
- learn by touching and moving.
- use their sense of smell and taste to understand the world around them.



It is hard for people with deafblindness to get information.



They can often only get information that is very near them.

People often only get little bits of information at a time.



By remembering all the little bits of information people with deafblindness can understand the whole information.

# Doing things and joining in

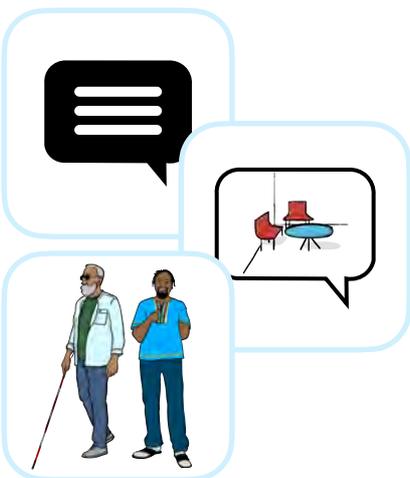


It is hard for people with deafblindness to join in with things.



People with deafblindness need:

- someone to help them to communicate.
- someone who understands people with deafblindness and can:
  - help them speak.
  - explain what is around the person with deafblindness.
  - help the person with deafblindness to move around.



- information that is easy to understand.



- someone to support them with daily life.



- changes to their home so they can do things for themselves.



- some extra equipment so they can use a computer and a phone.



People with deafblindness may have more difficulty with some activities than with others.



People with deafblindness need services which have staff:

- with many different skills.
- that understand how to work with people with deafblindness.

# For more information



You can look at our website here:  
[www.wfdb.eu](http://www.wfdb.eu)

If you need more information please contact us by:



- post:  
WFDB  
Sporveisgata 10  
N-0354 Oslo  
Norway



- email: [team@wfdb.eu](mailto:team@wfdb.eu)

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