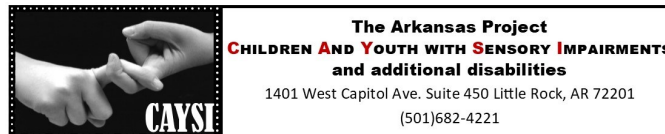


Fast Facts



- ◆ A person does not have to have full loss of a sense to be impaired
- ◆ It is not necessarily a total loss of both senses people have some degree of sight and/or hearing
- ◆ The combination of the two sensory impairments intensify the impact of each other
- ◆ Meeting the needs of individuals with DSI requires specific strategies and techniques
- ◆ DSI is unique and extremely complex that often requires specialized communication methods
- ◆ DSI can affect all areas of development, in particular the language acquisition process, conceptual development, and motor development



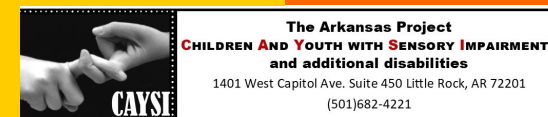
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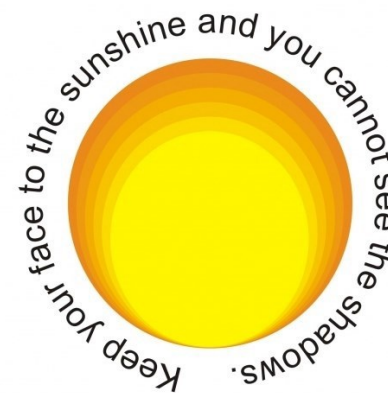
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Dual Sensory Impairment (DSI)

Dual-sensory impairments affect both vision and hearing. The combination causes difficulty in the ability to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment.



Helen Keller



Does it mean that there is no usable vision or hearing?

Absolutely not! Most individuals have residual hearing and vision. Even a “mild” combination of losses will impact access to information, communications, and all of the “input” required for learning to take place.



Dual Sensory Impairment (DSI)

DSI is a loss in both hearing and vision senses and has many causes. Education must address the hearing loss and vision impairment as well as other disabilities that may be present. Children that have a dual sensory impairment may exhibit a wide range of behaviors across their environment as a result of the sensory loss. The impairment may be a result of a processing problem in the area of vision and/or hearing.

Are there problems in these areas?

COMMUNICATION: Difficulty making wants and needs known

DISTORTED PERCEPTIONS: Difficulty imagining the whole picture

ANTICIPATION: Difficulty in knowing what is going to happen next

MOTIVATION: Motivating factors may be missing from a situation, going unseen or un-heard

INCIDENTAL LEARNING: Often missed due to inability to observe surroundings

What about children with multiple disabilities?

Many children that have hearing and vision impairments also have additional disabilities (such as cerebral palsy). The sensory loss may also be part of a syndrome or due to prematurity. In any case, the loss in any degree impacts access to information, concept development, and communication.

CAYSI Services

- Training based on needs
- Parent support groups
- Family and professional networking and sharing of effective practices
- Onsite consultation
- Onsite staff training
- Home visits