



**National Center
on Deafblindness**

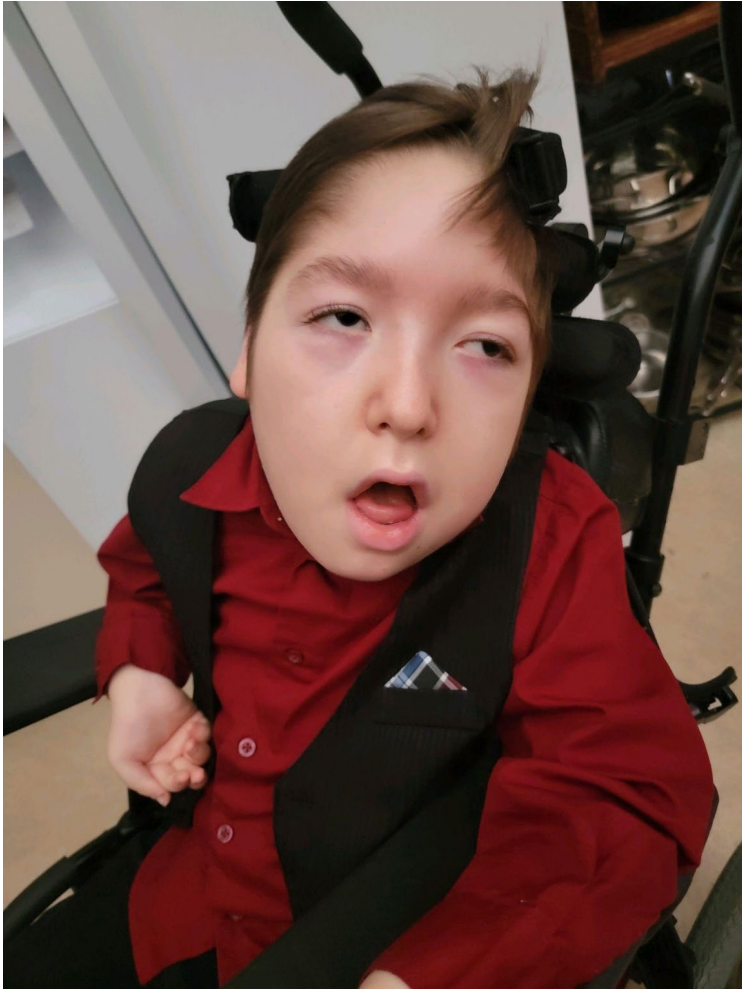
Practical Strategies to Use Tomorrow in Your Work with Deafblind Infants and Toddlers

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Learning Objectives

- Participants will:
 - Increase knowledge of evidence based practices that outline unique strategies in teaching children who are deafblind
 - Know where to find resources they can draw upon as they work with infants and toddlers who are deafblind
 - Increase knowledge of family-centered practices that support providers' work with families who have children who are deafblind

Michelle & Tyson's Story



Building Trusting Relationships

- The Foundation for Everything!
- Slow down & be a good observer
- Follow the child's pace & respect their autonomy (let them tell you when they're ready!)
- Relationships take time to build!
- Greeting Rituals
- [Practice Guide: Building Trusting Relationships](#)



Appropriate Hand Use & Respectful Touch

- The hands often serve as the eyes and ears for children who are deafblind
- Make your hands available to the child
- Hand-Under-Hand is a strategy where the learner's hands are gently guided from underneath, which allows the child to explore and participate as they choose.
- Practice Guide: Hand Under Hand



Child Guided Approaches & Shared Experiences

- Incidental learning is difficult
- Follow child's lead and interests
- Pacing and proximity matter!
- Movement, action, and hands-on experiences in multi-sensory routines
- Thoughtful presentation of experiences that “enable them to develop a gradually expanding view of the world.”
- [Practice Guide: Optimizing Availability for Learning](#)



Importance of Routine



- To bring order/organization to the child's world
- Builds concepts
- Create predictability when possible, increases security
- Predictability → anticipation → intentional communication
- [Key Resource: Routines](#)

(Text) Miles & Riggio (1998)

(Photograph) Tennessee Deafblind Project (2022)

Next Steps

- Think about one strategy you will use, share or learn more about
- Reach out to your [state deafblind project](#)
- Check out the [Practice Guides](#)
- Check out Michelle's NCHAM webinar:
 - [Assuming Competence: What to do when you don't know what to do!](#)



Training Tools

- Training Resources to build your knowledge about deafblindness
 - [Module 1: The Impact of Deafblindness on Learning](#)
 - [Module 2: Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deafblind](#)



References

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