

WHAT IS PROJECT REACH?

Project Reach provides technical assistance, information, and training to address the early intervention, education, related service, and transition needs of children with DeafBlindness to improve services and outcomes for children and their families and increase state capacity.

DeafBlind specialists work in different strategic geographic areas of the state. These specialists work with local school programs, community service providers and families to identify and provide technical assistance to children (ages birth to 21). They provide information (hard copy and electronic), periodic telephone contacts, and on-line and in-person trainings on a variety of related topics to families and professionals. Presentations are made at statewide conferences to inform others about the issues of DeafBlindness and services available, and identify eligible children and those suspected of having dual sensory impairments. Needs assessments are distributed to family members and professionals to identify areas of need for consultation services and various forms of technical assistance.

What is Technical Assistance? It is another way of saying "help" or "information" – in this case, Project Reach provides help and information for individuals supporting children with DeafBlindness. By combining a family or school's knowledge of a child and Project Reach's knowledge of DeafBlind quality practices, many questions and concerns can be addressed through general (basic information about DeafBlindness), targeted (more specific information) or intensive information (a long-term relationship requiring commitment from both parties to support one child).

Some Technical Assistance Topics:

- DeafBlindness
- Prelinguistic Communication Skills
- Emergent Communicator Skills
- Proficient Communicator Skills
- Access to Instruction
- Concept Development
- Meaningful Social Connections
- Components of IFSP/IEP
- Instructional Strategies
- Assessment Strategies
- Assistive Technology
- Literacy (Emergent to Advanced)
- Transition Planning - Early Intervention to Early Childhood
- Transition - Post-secondary (14-21)



Trainings and other activities are available for families to facilitate parental knowledge and connections. On-site coaching with families and educators/therapists supports the learning of new skills, which in turn supports the child with DeafBlindness. Services are coordinated with other state agencies responsible for providing services to children who are DeafBlind.

UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE, ALL SERVICES ARE FREE, PAID FOR BY U.S. Department of Education #H326T180012.



WHO IS CONSIDERED DEAFBLIND?

Children with DeafBlindness have combined auditory-visual impairments. The combination causes such severe communication and other developmental, educational, vocational and rehabilitation problems that a child cannot be properly accommodated in special education or rehabilitation programs solely for persons who are hearing impaired or visually impaired.

To be eligible for Project Reach services, a child must have:

- a visual impairment and an auditory impairment, or
 - a condition in which there is a progressive loss of hearing and vision.
- A) A visual impairment is defined to mean one or more of the following:
- (i) corrected visual acuity poorer than 20/70 in better eye;
 - (ii) restricted visual field of 20° or less in the better eye;
 - (iii) cortical vision impairment; or
 - (iv) does not appear to respond to visual stimulation, which adversely affects educational performance as determined by the multidisciplinary conference.

- B) An auditory impairment is defined to mean one or more of the following:
- (i) a sensorineural or ongoing chronic conductive hearing loss in the better ear with aided sensitivity of 26 dB HL or poorer;
 - (ii) functional auditory behavior that is significantly discrepant from the person's present cognitive and/or developmental levels, which adversely affects educational performance as determined by the multidisciplinary conference.

Any person age birth-21 suspected of being DeafBlind is eligible for services.

HOW DO YOU MAKE A REFERRAL?

Referral for service requests to the project are made by calling or writing to Michelle Clyne, Project Coordinator at: mclyne@philiprockcenter.org

Project Reach
Philip J. Rock Center & School
 818 DuPage Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
 (630) 790-2474 / (800)771-1158 (TTY)
 (630) 790-4893 (Fax)

Website:
<http://www.philiprockcenter.org/project-reach/how-is-a-referral-made>

PRC is located on the Northeast corner of Roosevelt Road (Route 38) and Route 53 in Glen Ellyn. From Roosevelt Road, turn North on Baker Hill Drive and turn left at the Philip J. Rock Center & School private drive.

The DeafBlind Specialists are:

Michelle Clyne – Chicago Area and Southern Illinois
 (630) 790-2474
mclyne@philiprockcenter.org

Jean Deptolla – Northwestern
 (630) 404-8267
jdeptolla@philiprockcenter.org

Patty Turner – Northwestern
 (630) 302-5889
pturner@philiprockcenter.org

Karen Windy – Central Illinois
 (815) 488-8491
kwindy@philiprockcenter.org

The Family Engagement Coordinator is:

Faith Rosenshein Young – Statewide
 (630) 568-8720
fryoung@philiprockcenter.org



Services of Project Reach are provided under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education #H326T180012. Project Officer, Louise Tripoli.

11/17/2020

**PROJECT REACH:
 Illinois DeafBlind Services**



818 DuPage Boulevard
 Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

(630) 790-2474 (Voice)
 (800) 771-1158 (TTY)
<http://www.philiprockcenter.org/project-reach>

Michelle Clyne, Project Coordinator
mclyne@philiprockcenter.org

Amy Deegan, Project Director
adeegan@isbe.net

Peggy Pausche, Executive Assistant
ppausche@philiprockcenter.org