

MULTISENSORY IMPAIRMENT

What is Multisensory Impairment?

We all need information from the world around us in order to learn, develop, interact with others and function. As most of the information around us is accessed through our senses of hearing and vision, a child with difficulties with both their senses of hearing and vision will not have access to the same auditory and visual information as their hearing and sighted peers.

The combined effect of this dual sensory loss is more significant than the degree of each sensory impairment would suggest and can affect every area of a child's development and learning. The term multisensory (MSI) is therefore used.



What is the Impact of having MSI?

MSI is essentially a disability of access and can result in isolation. All children with MSI have difficulties with their:

- ❖ Access to information
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Mobility or independent exploration

Each child has to be assessed individually as there is a continuum of needs depending on:

- ❖ Severity of their hearing and vision losses
- ❖ Age of onset
- ❖ The environment
- ❖ Co-existing conditions

More on MSI

[Multi-Sensory impairment | Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service](#)