



FACT SHEET

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The Use of Interveners

by Gloria Rodriguez-Gil

What is an Intervener?

A trained individual who has knowledge and skills related to deafblindness and deafblind intervention practices. An intervener provides one-to-one direct support to a learner who is deafblind at school, home and/or in the community. The need for an intervener and the level of support the learner needs to participate effectively in their environment are determined through the IFSP or IEP process.

Importance of an Intervener for a learner who is deafblind:

Deafblindness creates very unique and complex challenges caused by the concomitant effect of both vision and hearing loss. These challenges are mainly in the area of communication, concept development and social and emotional development. An intervener responds to these challenges by serving as a link between the learner and their world, and by helping to expand it.

Role of an Intervener:

- Facilitate the process of accessing information usually gained through vision and hearing.
- Facilitate the development of the learner's receptive and expressive communication.
- Promote a trusting and secure relationship with the learner and their community.

Intervener's Responsibilities:

- Provide direct support to the learner.
- Work cooperatively with family members, teachers, related service providers, and specialists on the learner's team.
- Follow the learner's IEP goals and use the adaptations and instructional techniques suggested by the educational team.
- Be proficient in the learner's communication system.
- Create instructional materials as needed.
- Keep a daily record of the learner's work at school.
- Facilitate the communication between home and school.
- Contribute information for assessments of the learner and participate in the learner's IEP meeting and other team meetings.
- Participate in trainings related to deafblindness.

Work Attitudes:

- Hold and model high expectations of the learner.
- Demonstrate respect for the learner and their capacity for learning.
- Follow team decisions and procedures.
- Accept and use constructive feedback.
- Show interest in developing additional skills and knowledge.