

# OCDBE

THE OHIO CENTER FOR  
  
DEAFBLIND EDUCATION

Professional Learning  
Opportunity

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education • 3246 Henderson Rd. • Columbus, OH 43220 • 614-897-0020 • [www.ohiodeafblind.org](http://www.ohiodeafblind.org)

## Considerations for Families, Caretakers and Educators Unique to Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities

Presented by  
**Melinda Wolford, PhD, NCSP**

Families, caretakers and educators of children with multiple sensory deficits and lower incidence disabilities are presented with unique challenges that include significant support necessities. Burdens of the disability-related complications and lack of education or training can erode resilience and energy in those attending to the child. Finding balance as the requirements, matters and issues related to the child's care and advocacy are typically ever-changing and often unpredictable. *Considerations for Families, Caretakers and Educators Unique to Children with Deaf Blindness and Low Incidence Disabilities* is a 3-part webinar series designed to tackle and address some of the critical issues and obstacles for those immersed in these extraordinary circumstances.

**Speaker:** *Melinda Wolford, PhD*, is an experienced school psychologist and neuropsychologist, and previously served as an assistant professor in school psychology with expertise in assessment and intervention, parent training, staff development, and consultation.

**Target Audience:** Parents, caregivers school psychologists, intervention specialists, speech-language pathologists, related services providers, and other agency professionals

**Session Description:** The three-session professional learning series covers a variety of unique considerations parents, caregivers, and educators may experience when raising or working with a child with deaf blindness. The date, title of the session, and learning objectives for each session are listed below. **All sessions will be held from 4:00 to 5:15 pm ET.** Participants may register for one or more of the sessions by clicking on the session's registration link.

**Contact hours:** One contact hour (1) is available for each session.

**Participants may register for individual sessions or all sessions.**



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**Session 1:** Critical Issues and Support for Families of Children with Deaf Blindness and/or Low Incidence Disabilities

**Date:** January 19, 2022

**Registration Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEcfc1Jan19>

**Learning Objectives:**

Participants will gain an understanding of:

1. Issues unique to families of children with deafblindness and low incidence disabilities.
2. The importance of defining the roles of parents, siblings and caretakers in the assessment and intervention process of a child with deafblindness and low incidence disabilities.
3. Methods to design individualized data gathering strategies (interviews, observations, etc.) for parents, siblings and caretakers.
4. How to include parents/caretakers in the educational process and facilitate the transfer the support across settings.
5. The need for training and support for siblings and extended family members.

**Session 2:** Neurological Consequences of Trauma and the Importance of Trust Building in Children with Deaf Blindness and/or Low Incidence Disabilities.

**Date:** February 16, 2022

**Registration Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEcfc2Feb16>

**Learning Objectives:**

Participants will gain an understanding of:

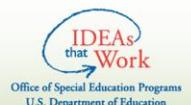
1. The neurological and biological consequences of trauma in developing childhood.
2. The challenges that may arise in the context of trauma unique to the deaf blind and/or low incidence child.
3. The importance of trust building for a child with limited multisensory access.
4. Creating safety, control, mastery and empowerment through trust building strategies.



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**Session 3:** Re-enchantment of Everyday Life for Educators and Families of Children with Deafblindness and Low Incidence Disabilities

**Date:** March 30, 2022

**Registration Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCDBEcfc3Mar30>

Learning Objectives:

Participants will gain an understanding of:

1. The road to burnout and strategies to develop adaptive coping behaviors unique to these populations.
2. Challenges of isolation commonly present for children, families and caretakers.
3. Strategies to identify and modify unconscious patterns, reactions and triggers leading to stress.
4. The importance of identifying supports within the community for families.
5. Intentional and mindful action plans to design extraordinary experiences for out of the ordinary circumstances.

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