Communication Systems for People who are Deaf-Blind

- Communication is a primary need for people who are deaf-blind.
- Effective communication must involve both receptive and expressive communication.
  - Receptive communication is the process of receiving and understanding a message from other person (input).
    - Forms or Receptive Communication
      - Touch Cues
      - Gestures
      - Tangible Representations
        - Whole Objects / Partial Objects / Associated Objects
        - Textures or Shapes
        - Photos / Pictures / Line Drawings
      - Sign Language / Tactile Sign Language
      - Written Words / Print on Palm / Braille
      - Speech / Vocalizations
  - Expressive communication is sending a message to another person (output). It is the means by which a person’s feelings, wants, likes/dislikes, comments, and intents are conveyed to others.
    - Forms of Expressive Communication
      - Behaviors
      - Vocalizations
      - Body Movements
      - Touching Objects and/or Persons
      - Gestures
      - Tangible Symbols / Objects / Pictures / Photos / Textures / Shapes
      - Speech
      - Written Word / Braille
      - Sign Language
      - Augmentative Modes
- A typical child may need to hear a word over 1,000 times before they begin to use it correctly. A child who is deaf-blind will need to hear, see or feel a communicative message many times before they will be able to use it receptively or expressively.