

HAND-UNDER-HAND

WHAT IS IT?

A strategy where a child's hands are gently guided from underneath, which allows them to explore and participate as they choose.

THE POWER OF TOUCH

Touch is often the most reliable and efficient way to learn for children and young adults who are deafblind.

The hands often serve as the eyes and ears of a child who is deafblind.



STRATEGIES FOR POSITIVE TOUCH

- Touch in a neutral location (shoulder, arm, leg).
- Use a greeting ritual to introduce yourself — words (signed and/or spoken), personal identifier, or touch.
- Touch what the child is touching.
- Follow the child's lead.
- Affirm the child with touch in a way that makes sense to them.
- Make your hands available in a palm up, open handshape.
- Encourage hand play and exploration. This builds trust!
- Use a parting ritual to say goodbye.



TEXAS DEAFBLIND PROJECT

txdeafblindproject.org
txdeafblindproject@tsbvi.edu

