Building Graphics Literacy Skills of U.S. Braille Readers in Grades 2-5

• Is your child in 2nd-5th grade?
• Does your child read braille?
• Would your child benefit from building accuracy and efficiency with braille line plots, pictographs, and bar graphs?

If you said “YES” to these questions, your child is invited to take part in a research study during spring 2023. Your child’s teacher of students with visual impairments (TSVI) must also join the research study in order for your child to participate.

What We Created: Through a small grant from the University of South Carolina we have developed 2 units that use authentic science data about endangered species while teaching students how to accurately locate and use information in line plots, pictographs, and bar graphs. Students will listen to a narrator read information as they explore, locate, and use information on tactile graphics. They will work with their TSVI to complete the 2 units.

Why We Created the Materials: When braille readers have a systematic approach to use when locating and interpreting information in tactile graphics, they can engage more efficiently in classroom learning.

Timeframe: The study runs from February – May 2023

Student Criteria for Participation:
• Read at a 2nd grade level or above
• Read braille numbers (UEB or Nemeth) up to 400
• Add 2 digit numbers
• Attend to and follow directions given by a narrator during a 30-50 minute lesson
• Be available for 6-8 hours of instructional time between February and May 2023

Researcher Observation: During one session with their TSVI, your child will be observed by a researcher. The researcher will use Zoom, a web conferencing tool, for the observation.

How to Enroll Your Child:
1. Complete the consent and demographic form at https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cGUePAwgTVtJDDw or call Dr. Herzberg at 864-503-5572 to request a packet be sent to you via US Mail.
2. Ask your child’s TSVI to complete the consent and demographic form at https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4H3uqlwqHkiOSzk.
3. A researcher will call your child via telephone and read them a letter of invitation and ask for their assent (agreement to participate in the study). You can be present for the phone call or you can designate your child’s TSVI to be present.
4. The first 30 student-TSVI pairs who complete consent materials will be enrolled in the study and receive the materials for the 2 units via US Mail.

Gift Card: If your child completes both units they will receive a $25 Amazon gift card. The gift card will be sent to the parent's/guardian's email address if provided or mailed to the home address.

For more information contact Dr. Tina Herzberg at herzberg@uscupstate.edu or 864-503-5572.