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

Do you have a 2nd-5th grade braille reader who would benefit from building accuracy and efficiency with braille line plots, pictographs, and bar graphs?

**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.

**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 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

**Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments Responsibilities:**
- Work 1:1 with a 2nd-5th grade braille reader who meets the criteria and who has been consented by a parent/guardian to participate in the study
- Able to allocate 6-8 hours of student instructional time to work on the 2 units
- Agree to complete a form for research purposes each time they work with the student
- Able to work with the student 1:1 in a quiet setting where they both can listen to the narrator read the material
- Able to arrange for a researcher to join via Zoom one session in which the student is working on a unit

**What if My Student Doesn’t Meet Your Criteria?** We realize our criteria is very narrow for this project. We hope to write a larger grant to build on this project and make materials available to students who are braille and print readers.

**How to Enroll You and Your student:**
1. TSVIs: Complete the consent and demographic form at https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4H3uqlwqHkiOSzk
2. Parent/Guardian: Share the flier about the study with the parent/guardian.
3. The first 20 student-TSVI pairs who complete consent materials will be enrolled in the study and receive the materials for the 2 units via US Mail.
4. TSVIs must complete the 2 units with their student, submit all forms, and arrange for a researcher to observe one session via Zoom

**Gift Card:** TSVIs who complete all study activities will receive a $25 Amazon gift card.

TSVIs will be allowed to keep and continue to use the graphics and audio files they receive.

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