

Leisure Reading Characteristics of Blind/Visually Impaired Youth

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University is seeking research participants for a study aimed at evaluating the reading characteristics and behaviors of blind/visually impaired youth grades 3-12 to better understand how various formats impact leisure reading. As a result of this study, we will gain a much richer and robust understanding of factors that impact a child's desire to read for pleasure, which may also impact academic performance. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, but the knowledge gained will be essential in helping us to better develop future policies and practices for preparing teachers.

In order to participate in this study, your child must meet the following criteria:

- Be between the ages of 8-22 and be enrolled in a school in the United States in grades 3-12;
- Have visual impairment listed as his/her primary diagnosed disability on his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
- Have English as his/her primary spoken language;
- Have an *active reading medium** of either print (any size/magnification) or braille; and
- Be willing to be videotaped reading for up to one hour.

*Note: To have an *active reading medium* of either print or braille, the youth must be *reading on a level that is no more than two years below grade level* ** (e.g., a 4th grader must be reading at a 2nd grade level or above) and must be able to read braille or print for at least ten minutes.

**Note: If you do not know your child's reading level, you can ask his/her classroom teacher or VI teacher, or we can do an assessment on him/her.

If you are interested in having your child participate, please contact the Research Associate, Laura Bostick, at lbostick@latech.edu or 318-257-4554. Thank you for helping us to better understand the reading demands and abilities of youth who are blind or visually impaired.

Sincerely,

Edward Bell, Principal Investigator