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The Critical Period for the Development of Tactile Sensitivity

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ABSTRACT

The focus ofthis project was to ascertain whether or not there is a critical period, or "Window of Opportunity," in the development of the sense of touch, and its impact on an individual's braille reading ability. A proposed solution to this problem is needed in order to evaluate the need for beginning braille instruction as early as possible or tactile sensitivity training in low vision readers with the potential to lose their sight later on in life. The theoretical aspects of tactile sensitivity are first discussed to provide a background into the exploration of this topic.. The research study designed to probe this issue is then discussed, along with the research findings. Finally, conclusions from this study are analyzed, as well as their implications for future research.

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The greatest sense in our body is our touch sense. It is probably the chief sense in the processes of sleeping and waking; it gives us our knowledge of depth or thickness and form; we feel, we love and hate, are touchy and are touched, through the touch corpuscles of our skin (Montagu, I).

--J. Lionel Taylor, The Stages of Human Life, 1921, p. 157

The sense of touch may be among the body's greatest senses, yet even to the present day it remains illusive in terms of our understanding. The physical anatomy of touch can be detailed, but which parts truly create which sensation still remains to be fully discovered, as well as how it impacts our daily interactions with our environment. The need for understanding becomes even more crucial to those who depend upon this sensory channel more than any other, the population of the visually impaired. Recent research has focused on the maturation of other senses and skills, such as visual processing, acquisition of languages, music ability, and mathematical processing, and whether or not there is an optimum period in their development (Begley, 55-62). As the sense of touch is the key to literacy for the visually impaired, the need to explore the existence of an optimum period for the development of the sense of touch is of the utmost importance, as its implications on education may be far ranging.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Maria Montessori was the first to define a "sensitive period" in relation to human development. Her pioneering work with children led her to believe that during these special periods the individual would fixate on the acquisition of a particular skill. Once development in this area was accomplished, the fixation would fade away (Standing, I 19). She also noted that this "fixation" would especially be important for the special needs child and their "explosions into exploration" (Orem, 44).

How this "sensitive period" relates to the development of the visually child has always been a question. Early literature on blindness notes the visually impaired to have special abilities, particularly with their senses of hearing and touch, to compensate for their "loss." Yet, it might not be the case of compensation, but differences in neural development..

Perceptions of sensations, such as tactual, are dependent upon the brain's interpretation of the messages sent by the neurons. The area of the brain that specializes in the sense of touch is the

somatosensory cortex of the parietal lobe, found in the right cerebral hemisphere (Tortora & Anagnostakos, 351). Sensations from any part of the body received through the skin travel up the spinal column through the spinothalamic pathway to this portion of the brain. This pathway differentiates for experiences of pain, pressure, temperature, vibration, crude touch, and light touch, so that the messages may be interpreted appropriately. Within the skin layers themselves, particularly in the fingertips, are neural receptors to facilitate the sending of messages. These include Pacinian's corpuscles, believed to be responsible for responses to vibratory stimuli, Meissner's corpuscles, related to light touch, and Ruffini cylinders or Krause end bulbs, which may mediate experiences with hot and cold (Heller & Schiff, 34, 93). As these receptors are tiny and overlap each other, it is difficult to distinguish which receptors are accountable for which response. They are, however, very sensitive to stimulation, especially in the fingertips, where they are more concentrated than most any other section of the body.

Stimulation is important for the learning process. Montagu states, "We would expect that early tactile stimulation would in most respects be more important than later tactile stimulation in the development of the organism ... " (180). There is two definitive reasons for this to be the case. The first, as stated by Florence and Kaas, is that, "Changes in the relative levels of sensory stimulation as a result of experience or injury produce modifications in sensory maps" (888). During early development the child is bombarded with a wealth of sensory experiences. The brain chooses a primary sensory channel through which to most efficiently gain information. For the average child, this primary sensory channel will be vision, as it provides the easiest and most accessible data. For the visually impaired child, it will be the sense of touch, as it provides more tangible data than the sense of hearing. Through this process, the brain creates its own sensory map, which is made up of the connections formed by the neural connections and relays in the somatosensory cortex (ludel, 41). These pathways are strengthened through the myelination process, which can continue into early adolescence (Yakovlev & lecours, 1967). This is what becomes known as the critical period. Brown, Hopkins, & Keynes note that, "After the critical period, plasticity on a major scale is lost and neuronal connections become more permanent" (6). It is theoretically still possible for the myelination process to occur into adulthood and old age, but not to the extent that is occurs in childhood. Changing the sensory map becomes more difficult and almost requires a return to Montessori's "periods of fixation" in order for a change to be ultimately successful.

The process of creating the sensory map is essentially easier for the child than the adult. Mild tactile stimuli can easily produce changes in heart rate and motor behavior in an infant, which results in neural encoding but the same stimuli may barely be noticed by the adult (Santrock & Yussen, 131). As further noted by Clay:

The need for peripheral skin stimulation and contact exists throughout life, but it appears to be most intense and crucial in the early phase of reflex attachment. Ribble goes as far as to say that the nervous system of the infant requires some sort of stimulus feeding at this early period. Certainly the young child needs an optimum period for gratification of his sensual needs, which are both oral and tactile. This is why the preverbal years are considered a critical period for tactile learning. From this time on the needs for tactile contact decline, but tactile stimulation must still be age-graded according to the developmental needs of the human organism. (308)

Children are more receptive to physical contact and tactual stimuli and receive more of it than adults. As individuals progress toward adulthood, this contact is reduced, in part due to societal customs, and in part due to unperceived needs. This holds true for individuals who are visually impaired. Parents of visually impaired children are encouraged to provide their children with plenty of tactile stimulation in order to prepare them for literacy. Adults, however, who become visually impaired later in life, rarely receive these types of experiences. This would suggest that children who are visually impaired would have a better chance of being more responsive to tactual stimuli, such as braille, than those who are adventitiously blind. Axelrod's 1959 study on the effects of early blindness would dispute this notion from the sense that he found no significant difference between the performance of earlyblinded vs. late-blinded on perceptual tasks when adjusted for the age difference, yet at the same time, statistics on the performance of adventitiously blinded braille readers would suggest otherwise (72). The changes in the sensory maps by adults can be made, but it requires both repetitive, ritualistic exposure, as seen with the play experiences of children, and time. Adult populations also have to problem of the degradation of Meissner's and Pacinian's corpused with age. As reported by Verrillo, with age comes accompanying reductions in size and number of Meissner's corpuscles, but an increase in the size of Pacinian's corpuscles, though they too decrease in number (66). The size increase of Pacinian's corpuscles, however, does not make them more responsive to stimuli, but less. This would suggest a reduction in the ability of these receptors to respond to low levels of vibratory sensation and light touch, as required in braille reading. Thus, it becomes even more important to have appropriate tactile experiences in childhood to create strong neural pathways in order to

counter the effects of age on the primary sensory receptors. Hence, the need to consider the existence of a critical period becomes even more relevant.

This review of the literature would suggest the theoretical possibility of a sensitive period for the development of the sense of touch. While the theoretical possibility is significant, it needs to be shown in practicality in order for it to be applicable. For these purposes, the following research study was designed.

The Study

METHOD

The hypothesis to be examined was whether of not there is a critical period in the development of the sense of touch or a "window of opportunity," and to identify factors affecting the optimum use of braille reading ability. The prediction was that the subjects' whose braille reading instruction began in early childhood would prove to be classified as those with faster reading speeds. These readers would also have good comprehension rates of the material and display few less than adequate braille reading practices. The hypothesis would be tested at the American Council of the Blind's 1996 National Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with testing taking place june 29-july 3, 1996. This location was chosen because it would provide the best demographically unbiased sample.

SUBJECTS

Prior to using the examination materials at the American Council of the Blind's National Convention, the testing procedures were evaluated on six field test subjects. All of the field test subjects were female, and had a mean age of 27.83, from a range between 20-43. There were no problems in administering the test to any of these individuals, so no changes were made.

Ninety-five individuals who were in attendance at the American Council of the Blind's National Convention participated in this study. Most of the subjects volunteered to be a part of the study, while the rest agreed after hearing a brief explanation of the study and what their participation would involve. Of the ninety-five subjects, the data from only ninety-three of the subjects could be used. From the remaining ninety-three subjects, fifty-seven were female (61.29%) and thirty-six were male (38.71%). Subjects' state of origin included at least twenty different states, comprising all

of the geographic regions of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. The subjects' mean age was 48.27, from a range between 21-78 years of age (Appendix D). Eighteen of the ninety-three subjects (19.35%) had a secondary condition or disability, but none significant enough to bar them from participation in this study (Appendix E). The two most common conditions were slight hearing losses and mild cases of arthritis. Only subjects that had identified themselves as braille readers were asked to participate.

MATERIALS

Two major types of materials were used in the process of testing the participating subjects, a series offorms and a reading sample. The most important oftbese was the reading sample. The purpose of the reading sample was to verify information subjects would be asked to provide about themselves in the forms that preceded the reading sample and to ascertain the subjects' reading speeds. A reading sample had to be chosen that would take into account the variety of people and age groups who would be doing the reading. The sample was taken from the book, <u>In the Eye of the Storm</u>, by Max Lucado, pages 55-57, with a total of 876 words in the passageand had an average reading level of sixth to eighth grade. The testing period for the reading was three minutes long, so the examiner could get minute readings for each of the three minutes and then a three minute average. This aided the process of determining the veracity of each subject's reading speed. With the passageat 876 words, the maximum number of words per minute a subject could read was 296.

Three forms were used to gain information about the subjects involved in this study. The first was a consent form, which explained the purpose of the study, what the subjects would be required to do, and that their participation was voluntary, and they were free to withdraw from the study at any time (Appendix A). The examiner had signature guides on hand to aid the subjects in signing the consent form. The subjects were also notified that the examiner would not be identifying them by name on any part of the study and that on all other forms they would be classified by number.

The second form was entitled "Taction Questionnaire" (Appendix B). The purpose of this form was to gain background information about the subjects' braille reading experiences, such as the age at which they started to learn to read braille, who provided their instruction and number of years of instruction, and their particular braille reading habits. If the subject was unable to provide an answer to a question, the examiner moved onto the next question. In most cases, the subjects were

able to provide very detailed information.

The third form to be used as an observation form (Appendix C). This form was used by the examiner to verify the information given by the subjects about their reading practices and also for recording their reading speed during the testing process. Comprehension questions to be asked of the subjects following their reading of the passagewere included on this form. The subjects received a check mark ifthey responded correctly, a minus sign ifthey answered the question incorrectly. Based on their number of correct responses, the examiner determined their general comprehension abilities and later verified them through statistical analysis.

PROCEDURE

Subjects were tested at the examiner exhibition booth in the Tulsa Convention Center, Exhibition Hall B. The examiner's booth was at the end of a line of exhibits, so asto have a less distracting environment for testing, but the sales of an exhibit to the left of the booth often provided distraction. The examiner sought to minimize this distraction as much as possible. Subjects came up to the booth, and after agreeing to participate, were invited to have a seat at the examiner's table. They would be first asked to sign the consent form and would be made aware of their rights through aiding the study. Each subject was asked if they wanted the whole consent form read to them, or have it summarized. In most cases, subjects opted for a summary. Upon signing the consent form, the subject was provided a copy of the form that they could keep.

The first part of the testing process was the Taction Questionnaire. Once the questionnaire was completed, the examiner would explain the instructions for the reading sample. The subjects were told that they would be reading the passagesilently for three minutes, doing which time the examiner would be verifying the information they provided on the questionnaire and also noting their reading their speed. The examiner would evaluate speed by following along with the subjects as they read in a numbered passage, and timing with a stopwatch. Because the subjects would be reading silently, the examiner would ask a few basic comprehension questions after the reading, so as to assure the examiner that they understood the passage. Following the answering of the questions, the subjects would be told their reading speed. If the subjects had any further questions, the examiner addressed them at this time, and then thanked the subjects for their participation in the study.

RESULTS

The information obtained from the subjects illustrated the number of factors that can affect braille reading. Even those who could be classified as good braille readers demonstrated less than adequate reading practices, such as occasional scrubbing of dots or regressing when something was misread. Good readers could be classified by their reading rates, their comprehension abilities, their reading techniques, the location of their reading instruction, and their number of years of instruction. Since the purpose of this study was to ascertain a critical period of instruction, the data from reading speeds and number of years of braille reading instruction was correlated.

Subjects were first grouped into categories based on their reading speeds in increments of fifty words per minute (wpm): 0-50 wpm, 50-100 wpm, 100-150 wpm, 150-200 wpm, 200-250 wpm, and 250+ wpm. The division of subjects into these groups did not seek to label their reading ability as poor, average, or superior at this point, but to find a common numerical curve into which they might fall. Through this grouping, the number of subjects in each category provided a relatively normal bell curve.

After being grouped, each subject's age for beginning braille instruction was compared. A mean age for each category could then be derived. As shown from the data in Appendix F, the mean age progressively decreased as the subjects' reading speeds increased. There were individual subjects for which this did not appear to be the case, but nonetheless, overall data showed this to be true. By grouping the data in two other ways, by poor, average, and superior rankings, and by grouping of 100 wpm instead of 50, the means obtained in the original data set were further verified. The means for these groupings centered seven years of age. The mean age for all 93 subjects also centered around seven years of age, relating back to the other three groupings, and offering more support for the hypothesis.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE RESULTS

The two major factors affecting the results were distraction and cold. As mentioned previously, the exhibition booth next to the testing session had many visitors, and the noise could not always be minimized, in spite of the efforts of the individuals running the booth who were aware of the testing taking place. The exhibition hall also had many computer vendors in attendance demonstrating their products, often very loudly. All readers were asked if this might affect their

performance, and 23% of those tested indicated it could if it came up during testing. The final source of distraction came from other subjects coming up to the booth and expressing interest in the study in the middle of another subjects' reading sample. The examiner attempted to deal with these situations without greatly disturbing the subject's reading, but it still could impact and slightly slow down the reading. Distraction, in one form or another and however minor, occurred in 56% of all testing situations, so a percentage of error in the results should be figured in to account for this occurrence.

The second key factor to take into consideration was cold. Due to the number of computers in the exhibition hall and the heat that they generate, the hall was very well air conditioned. The computer vendors were, however, mainly located at the opposite end of the hall from the examiner's booth, so that the heat of the computers by no means improved the chilly nature of the hall. As a significant degree of coldness can lower tactile sensitivity, this was a concern. The exhibitors most affected by the cold did voice their concerns to the maintenance staff and for a few hours on one of the days of exhibition, the temperature was at a more tolerable level. Ten subjects were tested during this period. Unfortunately, the computer vendors then expressed it was too warm and the exhibition hall was returned to its previous cool temperature. As the exact degree of how this impacted subjects' reading speeds cannot be determined, a margin of error must be calculated for this.

CONCLUSIONS

The implications of this study suggest he need for further research in this area. If a critical period for developing the sense of touch exists, as this study certainly indicates that it does, than greater emphasis must be placed on teaching braille not only to totally blind children at an early age, but to those with the potential of losing their sight later on in their life. This would facilitate the ease of their learning process and aid in the process of developing more positive attitudes towards braille. Braille would not be viewed as a last resort, but an alternative medium, in the same manner that one would view learning a second language. This early introduction would not mean that these low vision children would have to, necessarily learn the entire braille code in the same time frame as a totally blind child is expected to learn it in order to gain literacy, but a gradual progression towards this goal would be highly effective, and take advantage of the critical period, which can extend to and through adolescence. Between agesfive and seven years of age appears to be the optimum time frame for

beginning braille reading instruction, and it would be advisable to start a child toward braille literacy during this time frame.

A second conclusion that can be drawn from this study is the desperate need for tactile sensitivity training for adventitiously blind beginning readers. As is takes work to make changes in one's sensory map and establish new neural pathways to aid in tactual reading, it becomes apparent that the short periods often accorded to new adult braille readers is not sufficient. It is assumed that these readers only require minimal instruction so as to use braille for functional, daily living tasks, and many adventitiously blinded individuals hold negative attitudes about learning to use braille. However, if these primary psychological obstacles can be overcome, there should be no reason that adult readers cannot accomplish more in learning to read braille. Many oftbe adult readers tested in this study expressed the opinion that they were bad readers and not suitable candidates for this study based on their slow reading rates. They would explain that they had not received a lot of instruction in braille and really did not feel competent in using it as a reading medium. Yet, after testing they discovered that they read at least twice as fast as they thought they did, and had good comprehension rates. They walked away from the testing situations feeling more positive about their braille reading abilities, and on more than one occasion did the examiner hear the subject now boasting to friends or family. The possibility of promoting braille literacy among adult population based on the understanding that it takes time to "rewire" one's brain due to being past the critical period, versus just accepting the idea that adults cannot become as proficient of readers, is an encouraging one.

Overall, this is a promising area of research and promotes the need for braille literacy in an age where the issue is hotly debated. In order to have good, literate braille readers, they must take advantage of the window of opportunity, for learning, and passthis knowledge on to future generations.

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APPENDIX A

CONSENT_FORM-ADULT (Age 18 or older)

The Critical Period for the Development of Tactile Sensitivity

You are invited to participate in this research study involving the gathering of information on your background training in braille reading and your current braille reading ability.

The purpose of this study is to examine whether or not there is a critical period in the development of the sense of touch and to identify factors affecting the optimum use of braille reading ability:

Your participation in this study will be completed in two parts. First, you will be asked some basic background questions, such as chronological age, age of onset of visual impairment, and when you learned to read braille. Then you will be asked to read a passage in braille, during which time the examiner will be noting your methods for reading braille. Following your reading you may be asked a few questions to check your understanding of the passage.

The only foreseeable risk to you in participating in this study is that you may feel some discomfort reading infront of the examiner, but the examiner would ask that you relax and enjoy the experience.

Participating in this study benefits not only the research this examiner is doing, but you, the participant, as well. Aiding this research will help in determining whether or not teachers will need to change some of their methods, of teaching braille reading in order to further emphasize certain aspects of tactile development. This is a critical part of encouraging braille literacy in both children and adults. You can have the personal satisfaction that you have made a significant contribution to the future of braille literacy in the United States.

Although information obtained during this study may be in the future published in scholarly, journals or presented at conferences, any information which could identify you will be keptstrictly, confidential, as your name will not be recorded, nor any identifying characteristics of your personality.

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision to participate will not affect you, and you are free to withdraw from participation at any time without penalty or prejudice.

I aglf"eeto participate in this research study and acknowledge that I have received a copy of this consent form.

Signature of Subject

Date

APPENDIX B

TACFION QUESTIONNAIRE

Subject 10.1			Date.			
Gender:	M	F				
Age:	-					
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impmnnen~o	rthelik~:		ror example,	any neurop	diuy, diabe	
Is English yo	our first langua	ige for speak	ing/reading?	If no, wha	t is your pri	mary language
Age at which	vou began to	learn to read	braille:			
Number of N	AonthsIY ears	of instruction	:			
Who prowide school, a rel	d your instruct nabilitation sp	tion (i.e., an ecialist,, a con	itimerant or i rrespondence	esource roo course, sel	om teacher, f-taught,, or	a residential. other):
Do you read	braille with o	ne or both ha	ands? With c	one finger, t	wo fingers,	three fingers?
Which is you	ir preferred ha	ınd, your rigi	nt or your lef	t hand?	_	
Estimate_how	w many words	per minute.	you think you	ı read: _~		
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APPENDIX D

AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

I. 49 (M)	41.	24 (M)	81. 24 (F)
2. 43 (M)	42.	36 (M)	82. 28(F)
3. 45 (M)	43.	29 (M)	83. 63 (F)
4. 44 (F)	44.	61 (F)	84. 67 (F)
5. 63 (M)	45.	31 (F)	85. 49 (F)
6. 44 (M)	46.	42 (M)	86. 63 (F)
7. 47 (F)	47.	27 (M)	87. 64 (F)
8. 47 (M)	48.	43 (F)	88. 45 (F)
9. 64 (M)	49.	77 (F)	89. 39 (F)
10. 73 (M)	50.	43(F)	90. 45(F)
II. 43 (F)	51.	69 (M)	91. 60 (F)
12. 38 (F)	52.	43 (M)	92. 75 (M)
13. 64 (F)	53.	35 (F)	93. 64 (F)
14. 45 (M)	54.	42 (M)	94. 49 (F)
15. 42 (F)	55.	44 (F)	95. 41 (F)
16. 45 (F)	56.	33 (M)	
17. 43 (F)	57.	47 (F)	
18. 44(F)	58.		
19. 47 (F)	59.	43 (F)	20-29 yrs. = 9 (9.68%)
20. 48 (M)	60.		30-39 yrs. = 9 (9.68%)
21. 44 (M)	61.	60 (F)	40-49 yrs. = 44 (47.31 %)
22. 62 (M)	62.	50 (M)	50-59 yrs. = 5 (5.38%)
23. 57 (F)	63.	32 (M)	60-69 yrs. = 19 (20.43%)
24. 42 (F)	64.	48 (F)	70-79 yrs. = 7 (7.53%)
25. 58 (F)	65.	50 (F)	
26. 42 (F)	66.	46 (F)	
27. 30 (F)	67 <u>.</u>	43 (F)	
28. 46 (M)	68.	40 (F)	
29. 41 (F)	69.	63 (F)	
30. 78 (F)	70.	72(M)	
31. 54 (M)	71.	31 (M)	
32. 63 (F)	72.	43 (M)	
33. 47 (F)	73.	44(M)	
34. 44 (F)	74.	68 (M)	
35. 63 (F)	75.	72 (F)	
36. 21 (F)	76.	62 (F)	
37. 43 (M)	77.	48 (M)	
38. 23 (M)	78.	69 (M)	
39. 75(F)	79.	23 (F)	
40. 43 (M)	80.	26 (M)	

APPENDIX E ANY SECONDARY CONDITIONS/DISABILITIES

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l.		41.		81.	
2. 2		42.		82.	A with with a
з. ₄		45. 11		83. 04	Arthnus
4.		44.		84.	Diabtetes; Cornary Vascular
Б	Triple bypass	15		05	Disease (wheelchair)
5. 6	Thple bypass	45. 46	Deef	00. 06	
0. 7		40. 17	Deal	00. 07	
7. 8		47. 18		87. 88	
9. 9		40. 49	Arthritis: Slight Hearing Impaired	80. 80	
10			Authilia, Olghericaning impared	90 90	
II.		50. 51		91.	Arthritis
12.		52.		92	Hypertension
13.		53.		93	Neonathic right finger
					carpal tunnel
14.		54.		94.	
15.		55.		95.	
16.		56.			
17.		57.			
18.		58.			
19.		59.			
20.	Moderate hearing loss	60.			
2 I.	Mild hearing loss	61.			
22.		62.	Diabetes; Some Neuropathy		
23.		63.			
24.		64.			
25.		65.			
26.		66.	$18 { m subjects} =$	19.3	35% of subjects
27.		67.			
28.		68.			
29.		69. 70	SlightArthritis		
30.		70.	SlightArthritis		
31.		/1.			
32. 22		12. 72	Clight bearing impaired		
55. 24		73. 74	Slight Arthritic		
34. 35		74. 75	SiightArtinnus		
36 36		75. 76			
37.	Hearing Impaired	70. 77			
38		78.			
39	Arthritis	79.	Arthritis		
40.		80.			
то.		50.			

APPENDIX F

Below 50 WPM	50-100WPM	<u>100-150WPM</u>	150-200 WPM	200-250 WPM	<u>250+</u>
5. 23	6. 6	I. 8	2. 7	4. 5	16. 5
8. 8	9. 15	3. 5	12. 4	II. 6	17. 6
13. 25	10. 15	7. 6	15. 6	21. 6	
14. 24	22. 10	18. 5	19. 7	24. 6	Mean $=$ 5,5
38. 22	25. 7	26. 4Y2	20. 6	28. 6	
56. 15	30. 7	27. 5	23. 7	55. 5	
92. 12	35. 12	34. 7	29. 5Y2	64. 6	
	42. 8	36. 5	31. 5	65. 6	
Mean = 18.43	46. 8	37. 14	32. 5	67. 6	
	47. 4	39. 6	33. 7	68. 8	
	49. 10	40. 5	41. 5	73. 6	
	50. 6	44. 3	43. 6	82. 3	
	51. 6	52. 8	45. 4	85 . <i>5 Y</i> 2	
	62. 6	53. 5	48. 9		
	70. 12	59. 10	54. 5 <u>Y2</u>	Mean = 5.73	
	72. 6	61. 5	57. 8		
	75. 10	63. 5	66. 6		
	77. 6	74. 6	69. 5		
	79. 6	76. 6	71. 6		
	80. 4	83. 6	78. 6		
	81. 5	86. 6	87. 6		
	84. 5 <i>Y</i> 2	89. 5	88. 6		
		91. 37	90. 5Y2		
	Mean = 7.93	93. 6			
		94. 6	Mean = 5.98		
		95. 6			

MEAN AGE AT WHICH SUBJECTS BEGAN BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

Mean = 7.33

Readers grouped 0-100 wpm (29 subjects) = 10.47Readers grouped 100-150 wpm (26 subjects) = 7.33Readers grouped 150-250+ wpm (38 subjects) = 5.71

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Readers grouped 0-100 wpm (29 subjects) = 10.47Readers grouped 100-200 wpm (49 subjects) = 6.69Readers grouped 200-250+ wpm (15 subjects) = 5.7

Average Age of Beginning Instruction for all 93 subjects = 7.71

SPEED DEMOGRAPHICS

I.	101	41.	178.6
2.	183	42.	77.3
3.	131	43.	181
4.	248	44.	118
5.	33.6	45.	184.3
6.	75	46.	66
7.	108	47.	91.3
8.	47	48.	166.6
9.	72	49.	83,3
10.	64	50.	98.3
II.	205.6	51.	49.6
12.	177	52.	134.6
13.	13	53.	141.3
14.	17	54.	170
15.	150.6	55.	224.6
16.	253	56.	35
17.	263	57.	196
18.	140.6	58.	
19.	186.6	59.	126.6
20.	177	60.	
21.	209.6	61.	134.3
22.	80	62.	79.6
23.	153,3	63.	102.3
24.	206.3	64.	238
25.	88.6	65.	222
26.	142	66.	168.3
27.	115.3	67.	229.3
28.	215	68.	229.3
29.	184.3	69.	189
30.	97	70.	92.3
31.	159.6	71.	153.6
32.	169.3	72.	71.3
33.	164.6	73.2	211.6
34.	III	74.	109.6
35.	51.3	75.	76.6
36.	142,3	76.	129
37.	110	77.	97
38.	II	78.	161
39.	140	79.	91
40.	139.3	80.	89.6

81.	94.6
82.	242.6
83.	149
84.	61
85.	229.6
86.	129.6
87.	163.3
88.	188.3
89.	122.3
90.	183.6
91.	105.6
92.	47.3
93.	128.6
94.	116.6
95.	148

Below 50 wpm $= 7$						
50-100 wpm = 22						
100-150 wpm = 26						
150-200 wpm = 23						
200-250 wpm = 13						
250+ wpm = 2						

COMPREHENSION RATES

I.	5/5	100%	
2.	8/8	100%	
3.	7/7	100%	
4.	9/10	90%	
5.	1/1	100%	
6.	3/4	75%	
7.	5/6	83,3%	
8.	2(2	100%	
9.	3/3	100%	
10.	3/3	100%	
JI.	6/9	66.6%	
12.	7/8	87,5%	
13.	0/1	0%	
14.	2(2	100%	
15.	7/7	100%	
16.	9/10	90%	
17.	7/10	70%	
18.	6/6	100%	
19.	7/8	87.5%	
20.	8/8	100%	
21.	7/9	77.7%	
22.	4/4	100%	
23.	7/7	100%	
24.	7/8	87.5%	
25.	5/5	100%	
26.	6/8	75%	
27.	4/6	66.6%	
28.	4/9	44.4%	
29.	5/9	55.5%	
30.	3/5	60%	
31.	7/7	100%	
32.	5/7	71.4%	
33.	8/8	100%	
34.	4/6	66.6%	
35.	1(2	50%	
36.	7/7	100%	
37.	4/6	66.6%	
38.	1(2	50%	
39.	6/7	85.7%	
40.	5/7	71.4%	

42. $5/5$ $100%$ $43.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $44.$ $6/6$ $100%$ $45.$ $9/9$ $100%$ $46.$ $3/3$ $100%$ $47.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $48.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $49.$ $3/4$ $75%$ $50.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $51.$ $4/4$ $100%$ $52.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $53.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $54.$ $6/8$ $75%$ $55.$ $9/10$ $90%$ $56.$ $1(2)$ $50%$ $57.$ $6/9$ $66.6%$ $58.$ $59.$ $4/6$ $66.6%$ $60.$ $61.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
43. $8/8$ 100% 44. $6/6$ 100% 45. $9/9$ 100% 46. $3/3$ 100% 47. $5/5$ 100% 48. $8/8$ 100% 49. $3/4$ 75% 50. $3/5$ 60% 51. $4/4$ 100% 52. $7/7$ 100% 53. $7/7$ 100% 54. $6/8$ 75% 55. $9/10$ 90% 56. $1(2)$ 50% 57. $6/9$ 66.6% 5859. $4/6$ 66.6% 6061. $7/7$ 100% 62. $3/5$ 60% 63. $5/5$ 100% 64. $5/10$ 50% 65. $10/10$ 100% 66. $5/8$ $62,5\%$ 67. $10/10$ 100% 68. $7/10$ 70% 69. $8/8$ 100% 70. $5/5$ 100% 71. $8/8$ 100%	
44. $6/6$ $100%$ $45.$ $9/9$ $100%$ $46.$ $3/3$ $100%$ $47.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $48.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $49.$ $3/4$ $75%$ $50.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $51.$ $4/4$ $100%$ $52.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $53.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $54.$ $6/8$ $75%$ $55.$ $9/10$ $90%$ $56.$ $1(2)$ $50%$ $57.$ $6/9$ $66.6%$ $58.$ $59.$ $4/6$ $66.6%$ $60.$ $61.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $70.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
45. $9/9$ $100%$ $46.$ $3/3$ $100%$ $47.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $48.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $49.$ $3/4$ $75%$ $50.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $51.$ $4/4$ $100%$ $52.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $53.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $54.$ $6/8$ $75%$ $55.$ $9/10$ $90%$ $56.$ $1(2.50%)$ $57.$ $6/9$ $66.6%$ $58.$ $59.$ $4/6$ $66.6%$ $60.$ $61.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $70.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
46. $3/3$ 100% 47. $5/5$ 100% 48. $8/8$ 100% 49. $3/4$ 75% 50. $3/5$ 60% 51. $4/4$ 100% 52. $7/7$ 100% 53. $7/7$ 100% 54. $6/8$ 75% 55. $9/10$ 90% 56. $1(2)$ 50% 57. $6/9$ 66.6% 5859. $4/6$ 66.6% 6061. $7/7$ 100% 62. $3/5$ 60% 63. $5/5$ 100% 64. $5/10$ 50% 65. $10/10$ 100% 66. $5/8$ $62,5\%$ 67. $10/10$ 100% 68. $7/10$ 70% 69. $8/8$ 100% 70. $5/5$ 100% 71. $8/8$ 100%	
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48. $8/8$ 100% 49. $3/4$ 75% 50. $3/5$ 60% 51. $4/4$ 100% 52. $7/7$ 100% 53. $7/7$ 100% 54. $6/8$ 75% 55. $9/10$ 90% 56. $1(2, 50\%)$ 57. $6/9$ 66.6% 5859. $4/6$ 66.6% 6061. $7/7$ 100% 62. $3/5$ 60% 63. $5/5$ 100% 64. $5/10$ 50% 65. $10/10$ 100% 66. $5/8$ $62,5\%$ 67. $10/10$ 100% 68. $7/10$ 70% 69. $8/8$ 100% 70. $5/5$ 100% 71. $8/8$ 100%	
49. $3/4$ 75% 50. $3/5$ 60% 51. $4/4$ 100% 52. $7/7$ 100% 53. $7/7$ 100% 54. $6/8$ 75% 55. $9/10$ 90% 56. $1(2$ 50% 57. $6/9$ 66.6% 5859. $4/6$ 66.6% 6061. $7/7$ 100% 62. $3/5$ 60% 63. $5/5$ 100% 64. $5/10$ 50% 65. $10/10$ 100% 66. $5/8$ $62,5\%$ 67. $10/10$ 100% 68. $7/10$ 70% 69. $8/8$ 100% 70. $5/5$ 100% 71. $8/8$ 100%	
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51. $4/4$ $100%$ $52.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $53.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $54.$ $6/8$ $75%$ $55.$ $9/10$ $90%$ $56.$ $1(2$ $50%$ $57.$ $6/9$ $66.6%$ $58.$ $59.$ $4/6$ $66.6%$ $60.$ $61.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $70.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
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55. $9/10$ 90% 56. $1(2, 50\%)$ 57. $6/9$ 66.6%5859. $4/6$ 6061. $7/7$ 100%62. $3/5$ 60%63. $5/5$ 100%64. $5/10$ 50%65. $10/10$ 100%66. $5/8$ 62. $62,5\%$ 67. $10/10$ 100%68. $7/10$ 70%69. $8/8$ 100%71. $8/8$ 100%	
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58. $59.$ $4/6$ $66.6%$ $60.$ $61.$ $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $70.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
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61. $7/7$ $100%$ $62.$ $3/5$ $60%$ $63.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $64.$ $5/10$ $50%$ $65.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $66.$ $5/8$ $62,5%$ $67.$ $10/10$ $100%$ $68.$ $7/10$ $70%$ $69.$ $8/8$ $100%$ $70.$ $5/5$ $100%$ $71.$ $8/8$ $100%$	
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63. 5/5 100% 64. 5/10 50% 65. 10/10 100% 66. 5/8 62,5% 67. 10/10 100% 68. 7/10 70% 69. 8/8 100% 70. 5/5 100% 71. 8/8 100%	
64. 5/10 50% 65. 10/10 100% 66. 5/8 62,5% 67. 10/10 100% 68. 7/10 70% 69. 8/8 100% 70. 5/5 100% 71. 8/8 100%	
65. 10/10 100% 66. 5/8 62,5% 67. 10/10 100% 68. 7/10 70% 69. 8/8 100% 70. 5/5 100% 71. 8/8 100%	
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69. 8/8 100% 70. 5/5 100% 71. 8/8 100%	
70. 5/5 100% 71. 8/8 100%	
71. 8/8 100%	
72. 1/3 33.3%	
73. 8/9 88.8%	
74. 6/6 100%	
75. 4/4 100%	
76. 5/6 83.3%	
77. 3/5 60%	
78. 6/8 75%	
70 1/5 200/	
79. 4/3 80%	

41.	6/8	75%	81. 4/5	80%
42.	5/5	100%	82. 8/10	80%
43.	8/8	100%	83. 7/7	100%
44.	6/6	100%	84. 3/3	100%
45.	9/9	100%	85. 6/10	60%
46.	3/3	100%	86. 6/6	100%
47.	5/5	100%	87. 7/8	87,5%
48.	8/8	100%	88. 5/7	71,4%
49.	3/4	75%	89. 3/6	50%
50.	3/5	60%	90. 7/8	87 . 5%
51.	4/4	100%	91. 5/5	100%
52.	7/7	100%	92. 0(2	0%
53.	7/7	100%	93. 7/7	100%
54.	6/8	75%	94. 5/6	83.3%
55.	9/10	90%	95. 6/7	85.7%

AGE AT WHICH SUBJECTS BEGAN BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

Ι.	8	41.	5		81.	5
2.	7	42.	8		82.	3
3.	5	43.	6		83.	6
4.	5	44.	3		84.	5 Y2
5.	23	45.	4		85.	5Y.1
6.	6	46.	8		86.	6
7.	6	47.	4		87.	6
8.	8	48.	9		88.	6
9.	15	49.	10		89.	5
10.	15	50.	6		90.	5 Y2
II.	6	51.	6		91.	37
12.	4	52.	8		92.	12
13.	25	53.	5		93.	6
14.	24	54.	5Y.1		94.	6
15.	6	55.	5		95.	6
16.	5	56.	15			
17.	6	57.	8			
18.	5	58.		4 yrs. = 4 (4.3)	3%)	
19.	7	59.	10	5 yrs. = 17 (1)	18.28	%)
20.	6	60.		5 Y1yrs. $= 5$	(4.3%	6)
21.	6	61.	5	6 yrs. = 33 (3)	35.489	%)
22.	10	62.	6	7 yrs. = 6 (6.3)	45%)	
23.	7	63.	5	8 yrs. = 7 (7.1)	53%)	
24.	6	64.	6	-		
25.	7	65.	6			
26.	4Y1	66.	6			
27.	5	67.	6			
28.	6	68.	8			
29.	5Y.1	69.	5			
30.	7	70.	12			
31.	5	71.	6			
32.	5	72.	6			
33.	7	73.	6			
34.	7	74.	6			
35.	12	75.	10			
36.	5	76.	6			
37.	14	77.	6			
38.	22	78.	6			
39.	6	79.	6			
40.	5	80.	4			

NUMBER OF YEARSOF BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

V2 - 4 yrs.

I. 3 mos.	41.	6 vrs.
2. 2-3 vrs.	42.	2-6 mos.
3. 3-4 yrs.	43.	1-2 vrs.
4. 3 yrs.	44.	3-5 yrs.
5. 3 mos.	45.	2 vrs.
6. 2-3 yrs.	46.	l vr.
7. yr.	47.	3-4 yrs.
8. 2-3 yrs.	48.	6 mos.
9. l yr.	49.	3 yrs.
10. mos.	50.	2-3 yrs.
II. 2 yr.	51.	7 yrs.
12. 2-3 yrs.	52.	6 mos.
13. 3 mos.	53.	2-3 yrs.
14. 2 mos.	54.	2-3 yrs.
15. 2-3 yrs.	55.	2-3 yrs.
16. 2-3 yrs.	56.	2 mos.
17. 1-2 yrs.	57.	2-3 yrs.
18. 2-3 yrs.	58.	
19. 1-2yrs.	59.	Y2 mos.
20. 2-3 yrs.	60.	
21. 2-3 yrs.	61.	1-1 V2 yrs.
22. 3 mos.	62.	l yr.
23. 1-2 yrs.	63.	6 yrs.
24. 1-2 yrs.	64.	2-3 yrs.
25. 2-3 yrs.	65.	6 yrs.
26. 2-3 yrs.	66.	2-3 yrs.
27. 1-2 yrs.	67.	3 yrs.
28. yr.	68.	V2 yr.
29. 2 yrs.	69.	1-2 yrs.
30. <i>V</i> 2 yrs.	70.	l V2 yr.
31. 3 yrs.	71.	3 V2 - 4 yrs
32. 3 yrs.	72.	2-3 yrs.
33. 2-3 yrs.	73.	2-3 yrs.
34. yr.	74.	1!3yrs.
35. yr.	75.	6 mos.
36. 3 V2 yrs.	76.	3 yrs.
37. 2 <i>V</i> 2 yrs.	77.	2-3 yrs.
38. 3 mos.	78.	2-3 yrs.
39. 1-2 yrs.	79.	3 yrs.
40. 3-4 yrs.	80.	3 yrs.

81.	4 yrs.
82.	5 yrs.
83.	6 mos.
84.	1/4 yrs
85.	2-3 yrs.
86.	3 yrs.
87.	3 yrs.
88.	2 yrs.
89.	1-2yrs.
90.	2-3 yrs.
91.	4 mos.
92.	6 mos.
93.	2-3 yrs.
94.	2-3 yrs.

95. 2 V2 yrs.

WHERE SUBJECTS RECEIVED BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

- I. Residential
- 2. Resource Room
- 3. Residential
- 4. Residential
- 5. Rehab. Specialist
- 6. Mother/Resource Room
- 7. Residential
- 8. Residential
- 9. Residential
- 10. Residential
- II. Resource Room
- 12. Resource Room
- 13. Correspondance;Self-taught
- 14. Rehab. Specialist
- 15. Resource Room
- 16. Resource Room
- 17. Resource Room
- 18. Itinerant
- 19. Residential
- 20. Residential
- 2 I. Residential
- 22. Residential
- 23. Residential
- 24. Resource Room
- 25. Residential
- 26. Residential
- 27. Residential
- 28. Resource Room
- 29. Resource Room
- 30. Residential
- 3 I. Residential
- 32. Residential
- 33. Residential
- 34. Residential
- 35. Residential
- 36. Resid/Itin. & parents
- 37. Residential
- 38. Rehab. Specialist
- 39. Residential
- 40. Resid/Resource Room

- 41. Itinerant
- 42. Residential
- 43. Residential/Mother
- 44. Itin /Residential
- 45. Assoc. for Blind; Self-taught
- 46. Resource Room
- 47. Resource Room
- 48. Itinerant
- 49. Residential
- 50. Itin./Resource Room
- 5 I. Resource Room
- 52. Resource Room
- 53. Resource Room
- 54. Resource Room/Rehab.
- 55. Resource Room
- 56. Itinerant
- 57. Resource Room
- 58. ----
- 59. Residential
- 60. ----
- 61. Residential
- 62. Residential
- 63. Resource Room
- 64. Resource Room
- 65. Resource Room
- 66. Residential
- 67. Braille Tutor
- 68. Itinerant
- 69. Residential
- 70. Residential
- 71. Residential
- 72. Residential
- 73. Residential
- 74. Resource Room
- 75. Residential
- 76. Residential
- 77. Resource Room
- 78. Residential
- 79. Itinerant
- 80. Residential

- 8 I. Residential
- 82. Itinerant
- 83. Self-taught
- 84. Residential
- 85. Residential
- 86. Residential
- 87. Residential
- 88. Residential
- 89. Itinerant
- 90. Resource Room
- 9 I. Rehab. Specialist
- 92. Residential
- 93. Resid.;Self-taught
- 94. Residential
- 95. Resource Room
- Residential = 45 (48.39%)
- Resource Room = 23 (24.73%)
- Itinerant = 8 (8.6%)

Other = 13 (13.98%)

Rehab. Specialist = 4 (4.3%)

READING WITH ONE OR BOTH HANDS

I. Both
2. Both
3. One
4. One
5. One
6. Both
7. One
8. Both
9. Both
10. One
II. One
12. Both
13. Both
14. One
15. Both
16. Both
17. Both
18. Both
19. Both
20. One
21. Both
22. Both
23. Both
24. One
25. Both
26. One
27. Both
28. Both
29. Both
30. One
31. Both
32. Both
33. Both
34. Both
35. One
36. Both
37. Both
38. One
39. Both

40. Both

41.	One
42	One
43	Both
44	One
45	One
46	One
47	Both
-77. /18	One
40. 70	Both
-0.	One
50. 51	Both
52	Both
52. 53	Both
55. 54	Both
54. 55	Doth
55. 56	One
50. 57	One
57. E0	Both
50. 50	Dath
59. 60	Both
60.	
61.	One
62.	One
63.	Both
64.	Both
65.	Both
66.	Both
67.	Both
68.	Both
69.	One
70.	One
71.	Both
72.	Both
73.	One
74.	Both
75.	Both
76.	One
77.	One
78.	Both
79.	One
00	One

82.	Both
83.	Both
84.	One
85.	Both
86.	Both
87.	Both
88.	Both
89.	Both
90.	Both
91.	One
92.	One
93.	Both
94.	Both
95.	One

81. One

One Hand	= 35	(37.63%	ó)
Both Hands	= 58	8 (62. 37	%)

PREFERRED READING HAND

·

Ι.	Right
2.	Right
3.	Left
4.	Right
5.	Right
6.	Left
7.	Left
8.	Right
9.	Right
10.	Right
Π.	Left
12.	Left
13.	Left
14.	Right
15.	Left
16.	Left
17.	Right
18.	Left
19.	Right
20.	Left
21.	Right
22.	Right
23.	Left
24.	Right
25.	Left
26.	Right
27.	Left
28.	Right
29.	Right
30.	Left
31.	Left
32.	Right
33.	Right
34.	Right
35.	Left
36.	Right
37.	Left
38.	Left
39.	Left
40.	Left

41.	Right
42.	Right
43.	Left
44.	Left
45.	Right
46.	Left
47.	Right
48.	Left
49.	Right
50.	Left
51.	Right
52.	Right
53.	Right
54.	Left
55.	Right
56.	Right
57.	LIKE BOTH
58.	
59.	Left
60.	
61.	Right
62.	Right
63.	Right
64.	Right
65.	Left
66.	Right
67.	Diaht
	Right
68.	Right
68. 69.	Right Left
68. 69. 70.	Right Left Left
68. 69. 70. 71.	Right Left Left Left
68. 69. 70. 71. 72.	Right Left Left Left Right
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 	Right Left Left Left Right Right
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 	Right Left Left Left Right Right Right
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 	Right Left Left Left Right Right Right Right
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 	Right Left Left Right Right Right Right Right Right
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 	Right Left Left Right Right Right Right Right Left
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 	Right Left Left Right Right Right Right Right Left Left
 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 	Right Left Left Right Right Right Right Right Left Left Right

81. Left
82. Right
83. Left
84. Right
85. Right (Like Both)
86. Right
87. Right
88. Right
89. Right
90. Right
91. Right
91. Right
92. Right
93. Right
94. Right
95. Right

Left Hand = 34 (36.56%) Right Hand = 58 (62.37%) Like Both = 1 (1.08%)

BRAILLE PRIMARYREADING MEDIUM

۰. ۱

I.	Yes	41.	Yes	81	. No
2.	Yes/tape	42.	No	82.	Yes
3.	Yes	43.	No	83.	No
4.	Yes	44.	Yes	84	. No
5.	No	45.	Yes	85.	No
6.	Yes	46.	Yes	86	Yes
7.	Yes	47.	No	87.	Yes
8.	No	48.	Yes	88.	Yes
9.	No	49.	No	89.	Yes
10.	No	50.	Yes	90.	No
II.	Yes	51.	Yes	91.	Yes
12.	No	52.	No	92.	No
13.	No	53.	Yes	93.	Yes
14.	Yes	54.	Yes	94.	Yes
15.	Yes	55.	No	95.	Yes
16.	Yes	56.	No		
17.	Yes	57.	No		
18.	Yes	58.			
19.	Yes	59.	Yes	Yes = 64	(68.8%)
20.	Yes	60.		No = 29	(3 I.2%)
21.	Yes	61.	Yes		
22.	Yes	62.	No		
23.	Yes	63.	No		
24.	Yes	64.	Yes		
25.	No	65.	Yes & cassettes		
26.	Yes	66.	Yes		
27.	Yes	67.	Yes		
28.	No	68.	Yes		
29.	Yes	69.	Yes		
30.	Yes	70.	Yes & cassettes		
31.	Yes	71.	No		
32.	Yes	72.	No		
33.	Yes	73.	Yes		
34.	Yes	74.	Yes		
35.	Yes & cassettes	75.	Yes		
36.	Yes	76.	Yes		
37.	No	77.	No		
38.	No	78.	Yes		
39.	Yes	79.	Yes		
40.	Yes	80.	Yes		

NUMBER OF HOURS PERWEEK SPENT READING BRAILLE

I. 5 41. 5 2. 3-4 42. 1-5 3. 42 43. 10-12 44. 10-20 4. 20 5. I 45. 20-30 6. I 46. 10+ 7. 7-10 47. 21 8. 0 48. 28-35 49. 5 9. I hr.ayr. 10. 15-20 50.5-10 II. 30-40 51. 12 12. 1-2 52. I 13. 0 53. 10-20 14. | V2-2 54. 50 15. 20 55. 10-20 16. 30-35 56. 1-2 17. 5-6 57. 42 58. -----18. 20 19. 7-20 59. 20 20. 6 60. -----21. 7-10 61. 20 22. 2-3 62. 75-80 23. 5 63. 15 24. 8+ 64. 20 25. 50 65. 30-40 26. 10 66. 10-20 27. 25 67. 5-10 68. 5-10 28. 2-3 29. 7-8 69. 7-8 30. 10 70. 2-3 71. 2 31. 24 32. 10-20 72. 35 33. 32 73. 38 34. 10-15 74. 30 35. 5-6 75. 30 36. 3-5 76. 20 37. I hr. a month 77. 10 78. 6-10 38. 1-2 79. 4-5 39. 10-15 40. 20 80. 8

81.	5-10
82.	30
83.	10
84.	10-15
85.	I V2-2
86.	3
87.5	5-10
88.	45-50
89.	5
90.	15
91.	5-10
92.	6
93.	3-4
94.	5-6
95.	2

EXPERIENCEWITH THE OPTACON

I.	Yes	41. Ye	es	
2.	Yes	42. Ye	es	
3.	Yes	43. Ye	es	
4.	Yes	44. No	0	
5.	Yes	45. Ye	es	
6.	Yes	46. Ye	es	
7,	Yes	47. Ye	es	
8.	Yes	48. Ye	es	
9.	No	49. Ye	es	
10.	Yes	50. Ye	es	
II.	Yes	51. Ye	es	
12.	Yes	52. Ye	es	
13.	No	53. Ye	es	
14.	No	54. Ye	es	
15.	Yes	55. Ye	28	
16.	Yes	56. Ye	es	
17.	Yes	57. Ye	es	
18.	Yes	58	Y	es =
19.	No	59. Ye	es N	o =
20.	Yes	60		
21.	Yes	61. Ye	es	
22.	Yes	62. Ye	es	
23.	No	63. Ye	es	
24.	No	64. No	0	
25.	No	65. Ye	es	
26.	Yes	66. Ye	es	
27.	No	67. Ye	es	
28.	Yes	68. Ye	es	
29.	Yes	69. Ye	es	
30.	No	70. Ye	es	
31.	Yes	71. Ye	es	
32.	Yes	72. Ye	es	
33.	No	73. No	0	
34.	Yes	74. Ye	es	
35.	Yes	75. Ye	es	
36.	No	76. Ye	es	
37.	Yes	77. Ye	28	
38.	No	78. Ye	es	
39.	No	79. N	lo	
40.	No	80. Ye	es	

.

82. Yes
83. Yes
84. No
85. Yes
86. No
87. Yes
88. Yes
89. No
90. Yes
91. No
92. Yes
93. Yes
94. No
95. Yes

81. Yes

Yes = 70 [75.27%) No = 23 (24.73%)

BRAILLE READERSWITH SPEEDSUNDER 100 WPM 29 SUBJECTS VS. AGE AT WHICH BEGAN BRAILLE INSTRUCTION VS. NUMBER OF YEARSOF BRAILLE INSTRUCTION

Mean Age for beginning braille instruction = 10.47

5.	33.6	23	3 mos.
6.	75	6	2-3 yrs.
8.	47	8	2-3 yrs.
9.	72	15	l yr.
10.	64	15	I mos.
13.	13	25	3 mos.
14	17	24	2 mos.
22.	80	10	3 mos.
25.	88.6	7	2-3 yrs.
30.	97	7	I Y2 yrs.
35.	51,3	12	l yr.
38.	II	22	3 mos.
42.	77.3	8	2-6 mos.
46.	66	8	l yr.
47.	91.3	4	3-4 yrs.
49.	88.3	10	3 yrs.
50.	98.3	6	2-3 yrs.
51.	49.6	6	7 yrs.
56.	35	15	2 mos.
62.	79.6	6	l yr.
70.	92.3	12	l <i>Y</i> 2 yr.
72.	71.3	6	2-3 yrs.
75.	76.6	10	6 mos.
77.	97	6	2-3 yrs.
79.	91	6	3 yrs.
80.	89.6	4	3 yrs.
81.	94.6	5	4 yrs.
84.	61	5 Y2	I 1/4yrs.
92.	47.3	12	6 mos.

AGE DEMOGRAPHICS OF GOOD READERSVS. POOR READERS

2.	43 (M)	5.	63 (M)
4.	44 (F)	6.	44 (M)
11.	43 (F)	8.	47 (M)
12.	38 (F)	9.	64 (M)
15.	42 (F)	10.	73 (M)
16.	45 (F)	13.	64 (F)
17.	43 (F)	14.	45 (M)
19.	47 (F)	22.	62 (M)
20.	48 (M)	25.	58 (F)
21.	44 (M)	30.	78 (F)
23.	57 (F)	35.	63 (F)
24.	42 (F)	38.	23 (M)
28.	46 (M)	42.	36 (M)
29.	41 (F)	46.	42 (M)
31.	54 (M)	47.	27 (M)
32.	63 (F)	49.	77 (F)
33.	47 (F)	50.	43 (F)
41.	24 (M)	51.	69 (M)
43.	29 (M)	56.	33 (M)
45.	3 I (F)	62.	50 (M)
48.	43 (F)	70.	72 (M)
54.	42 (M)	72.	43 (M)
55.	44 (F)	75.	72 (F)
57.	47 (F)	77.	48 (M)
64.	48 (F)	79.	23 (F)
65.	50 (F)	80.	26 (M)
66.	46 (F)	81.	24 (F)
67.	43 (F)	84.	67 (F)
68.	40 (F)	92.	75 (M)
69.	63 (F)		
71.	31 (M)		
73.	44 (M)		
78.	69 (M)		
82.	28 (F)		
85.	49 (F)		
87.	64 (F)		
88.	45 (F)		
90.	45 (F)		

Mean Age of Good Readers = 45.05 II Males (28.9%),27 Females (71.1%) 20-29 yrs. = 3 30-39 yrs. = 3 40-49 yrs. = 25 50-59 yrs. = 3 60-69 yrs. = 4

Mean Age of Poor Readers = 52.93 19 Males (65.5%), 10 Females (34,5%) 20-29 yrs. = 5 30-39 yrs. = 2 40-49 yrs. = 7 50-59 yrs. = 2 60-69 yrs. = 7 70-79 yrs. = 6