# Braille and Print

Development of reading occurs in a pattern for every child. At the beginning stages of reading and writing, all children learn about real objects. As they gain more skills, children move toward print or braille.

Your child's literacy medium is the way your child will read and write. In fact, your child may use more than one literacy medium. Your child's educational team, including the teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI), will continue to track your child's reading and writing needs as they change over time.

The educational team decided that your child will use a combination of braille and print for reading and writing. Braille is a system that people who are blind or have low vision use to read by touch. There are many reasons children may need to learn braille even though their vision allows them to see print. A TVI assessed your child to help determine when to use braille or print with accommodations. Print accommodations may address size, lighting, contrast, or technology. It often takes more time to learn to read and write in both braille and print.

Auditory supports, such as listening to books, may be used with any literacy medium.

Braille/Print Books

Braille LEGOs

Brailler

Video Magnifier/ CCTV

## Helping at Home

Print is everywhere, but you may have noticed that it is difficult to find braille. You can help your child develop reading and writing skills in the following ways:

- Encourage the use of devices to read things such as price tags, street signs, menus, and recipes
- Search for braille in different environments like inside elevators, on ATMs, and on signs
- Read with your child and ask questions about the reading
- Encourage your child to listen to books and explain the story
- Work with your child's TVI to decide whether schedules, chore charts, recipes, lists, and other items in the house should be in print, braille, or both
- Notice when print seems to be hard for your child and talk about this with your child's TVI

## Assistive Technology

Different types of assistive technology may help your child when reading and writing in braille and print. Some assistive technology may need to be prescribed by an eyecare professional. As your child grows, their assistive technology may change. Assistive technology may include:

- Braille or QWERTY format notetaker
- Refreshable braille display
- Screen reader
- Text-to-speech application
- Video magnifier or closed-circuit television (CCTV)
- Optical character recognition (OCR) software
- Handheld magnifier and monocular
- Computer or tablet with accessibility features
- Brailler (manual or electric)
- Talking calculator
- Reading guide
- Adaptive measuring equipment

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# _____'s Literacy Medium

## Reading

## Writing

## Helping at Home

## Assistive Technology

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