

Do you want every student to be a reader?

We can help. The Nonspeaking Readers Project is focused on teaching early literacy skills to students who have severe disabilities and limited speech or no speech at all.

If your school chooses to participate, our research team will provide free literacy assessments and instruction that are specially designed for students with severe disabilities who are nonspeaking. All instruction will be phonics-based and grounded in the science of reading.



What are we studying and why?

- We are researchers from Ohio State University who are studying effects of two commercial reading curricula designed for students with severe disabilities who are nonspeaking—[Early Literacy Skills Builder \(ELSB\)](#) and [Accessible Literacy Learning \(ALL\)](#).
- This rigorous clinical trial will help the field understand the degree to which one or both of these approaches improves early literacy outcomes including phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, and word reading.

What happens when a school participates?

- Teachers identify students in grades K-3 who have severe disabilities and limited speech and send home parent permission forms. After a parent provides permission, our team will conduct a 30-minute screening to determine the student is a good fit for this study.
- Our research team will provide four 90-minute literacy assessments with all students who are a good fit for this study.
- Students will be randomly assigned to receive one of three treatment groups.
 - Two-thirds of students will be assigned to receive the ELSB or ALL curriculum. A member of our team will work one-on-one with these students for 90 minutes each week for 36 weeks to provide instruction on their assigned curriculum.
 - One-third of students will be assigned to receive no additional literacy instruction. These students will not receive any literacy instruction from our team, but will continue to receive any literacy instruction that was already provided by their teachers.
- We will work with teachers to schedule 30-minute sessions for us to work with students at times that will not disrupt other instruction.
- All instruction and assessments will be delivered by our team. Teachers are not expected to deliver any new instruction, although they are welcome to observe our research team provide instruction if they wish.

Want to learn more?

Contact **Megan Hopkins** at
614.292.2977 or
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We will set up a virtual or in-person meeting to share more details and answer your questions.