For children who are blind or partially sighted, being able to read and write in braille is the key to success in education, employment and independent living. There are myths about braille that can keep families from accepting it as a legitimate and important way of reading. Don't be afraid of braille. Let's debunk some braille myths and highlight the benefits.



Braille is only for kids who have zero vision.

Fact: Reading braille can be much faster than reading magnified text, where kids can only see one..word...or...letter...at...a...time.



Technology makes braille unnecessary.

Fact: Their, or there - hearing these words won't teach you how they're spelled. Listening to audio doesn't teach kids how to read; reading braille does. It also teaches basic literacy skills like spelling, grammar, sentence structure and comprehension.

# Myth:

Braille is a last resort.

Fact: Introducing braille after a child has struggled and failed with reading print can be a recipe for a reluctant reader. Expose kids to braille early, in case they need it later!



Using Touch to Read

#### What is printbraille?

Picture books with added braille. Pictures and print are left intact so books can be read in braille or print.

That means braille readers (whether adults or children) can read along with their family or friends.

### Why is printbraille important?

Printbraille books help teach children with vision loss the role of books and the concept of reading independently. By learning to read braille, kids experience the magic of reading a story for themselves.

#### Printbraille challenges

If a book has only a few words in print, it will have only a few words in braille – not much fun to read for someone who can't see the pictures! A picture book that relies on images to tell the story may not be suitable for printbraille production.

Wordless picture books, graphic novels and comic books present additional production challenges!

## Robot Smash

- A smashing exception to the rule!

Author Stephen Martin and publisher Owlkids collaborated with us to provide illustration descriptions. We added these to the book in both braille and print, so that all readers can follow the story.

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