Discussion

✓ Young deaf readers have a wider perceptual span than young hearing readers.

✓ Young deaf readers also have significantly shorter forward fixation durations and make significantly longer forward saccades than young hearing readers.
  
  • Though this only approached significance, young deaf readers also made fewer forward fixations and made fewer regressions back in the text relative to young hearing readers.

✓ Despite these differences in eye movements, comprehension in young deaf readers was equal to that of hearing readers.

Our results suggest an early onset of “word processing efficiency” in young deaf readers