

Study: Youngsters reading fewer books

By Motoko, Rich, New York Times

Cue the hand-wringing about digital distraction: Fewer children are reading books frequently for fun, according to a report released Thursday by Scholastic, the children's book publisher.

In a 2014 survey of just over 1,000 children ages 6 to 17, only 31 percent said they read a book for fun almost daily, down from 37 percent four years ago.

There were some consistent patterns among the heavier readers: For the younger children – ages 6 to 11 – being read aloud to regularly and having restricted online time were correlated with frequent reading; for the older children – ages 12 to 17 – one of the largest predictors was whether they had time to read on their own during the school day.

The finding about reading aloud to children long after toddlerhood may come as a surprise to some parents who read books to children at bedtime when they were very young but then tapered off. Last summer, the American Academy of Pediatrics announced a new policy recommending that all parents read to their children from birth.

Read the whole story