

Research and Outcomes Department

Manchester City School District, Manchester, TN

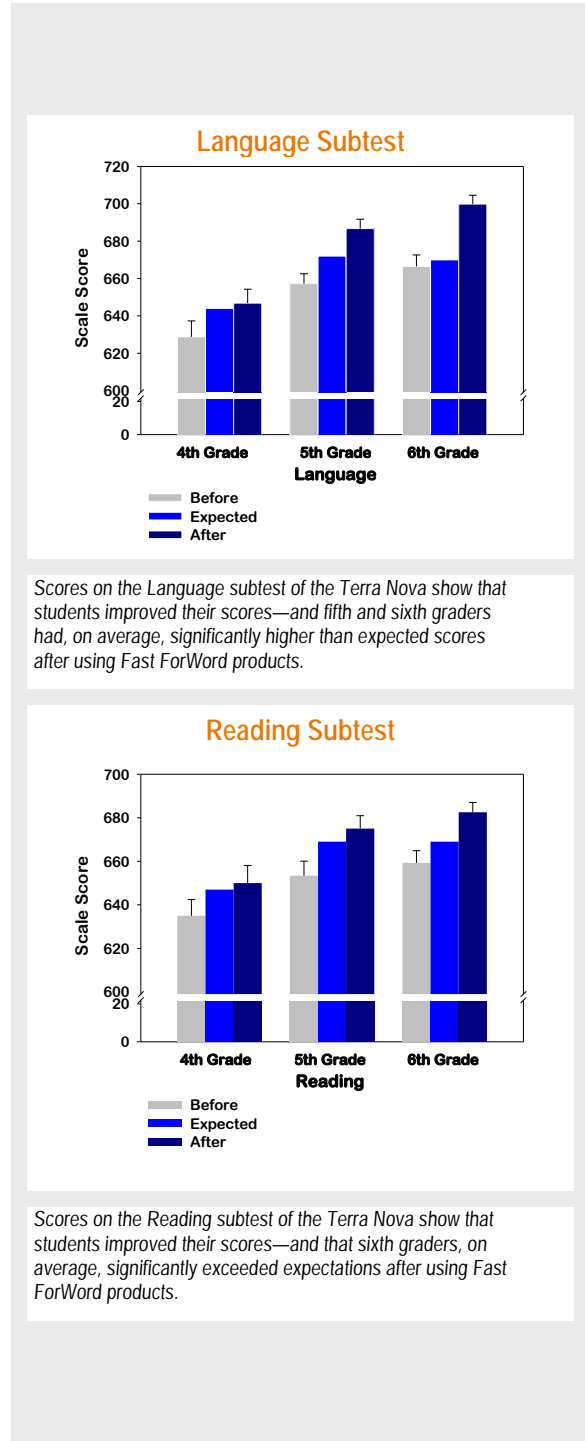
From the spring of 2000 to the spring of 2001, over 300 students in Westwood Elementary School in Manchester, Tennessee, used Fast ForWord products. Most used the Fast ForWord Language product, and some used the Fast ForWord Middle & High School and Fast ForWord Language to Reading products.

Approach and Methodology

Teachers in Westwood Elementary School selected 329 students to participate in this study. 274 used the Fast ForWord Language product, and the remaining 55 students used the Fast ForWord Middle & High School Product. 107 of the students in this study subsequently used the Fast ForWord Language to Reading product. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders were evaluated to see improvement in their language and reading skills.

Educators were trained in current and established findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills; methods for assessment of product candidates; the selection of appropriate measures for testing and evaluation; effective implementation techniques; approaches for using Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance; and techniques for measuring the gains students have achieved after they have finished using the product. This helped ensure successful product implementation.

School staff evaluated students' skills using the Language and Reading subtests of the Terra Nova.



Participation

Between the spring of 2000 and the spring of 2001, 329 students used Fast ForWord products. 274 students used the Fast ForWord Language product, averaging 19 days of product use within 34 calendar days and completing 80% of the product content. 55 students used the Fast ForWord Middle & High School product, averaging 13 days of product use within 22 calendar days and completing 84% of the product content. Finally, 107 students also used the Fast ForWord Language to Reading product, averaging 17 days of product use within 37 calendar days and completing 68% of the product content.

Assessment Results

On average, fifth and sixth graders had significantly greater than expected improvements in the Language subtest of the Terra Nova after using Fast ForWord products. Fourth graders showed improvement within the expected range.

In the Reading subtest, sixth graders did significantly better than expected after using the Fast ForWord products. Fourth and fifth graders showed improvement within the expected range.

Discussion

Language skills are critical for all students, impacting their ability to benefit from instruction, follow instructions, and participate in class discussions. Strong linguistic skills also provide a critical foundation for building reading and writing skills.

Scores from before and after participation show that, on average, after using Fast ForWord products, students in Westwood Elementary School demonstrated substantial increases in their language and reading skills. This suggests that using Fast ForWord products strengthened the students' foundational skills and helped them benefit more from the classroom curriculum.

**To find out more about this study, and how
Fast ForWord products can benefit students in
your classroom or district, please contact us.**

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