

Third-graders' scores improve 60% more than comparison group

Implementation Objectives

The Pawhuska School District in Pawhuska, OK and the Harlandale Independent School District in San Antonio, TX, were interested in evaluating the Fast ForWord products. The study was designed as an experimental study involving the assessment of reading and language skills before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Students in the study were attending third grade in the Pawhuska and Harlandale districts.

Methodology

Each participating student was assigned to either the Fast ForWord group or a comparison group. School personnel tested the reading and language skills of all students at the beginning and end of the study. Student performance was evaluated using the TerraNova Survey Plus.

At each school, participating educators were trained in:

- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- Use of Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance
- Techniques for measuring gains students achieve after they have finished using the product

Schedule of Use

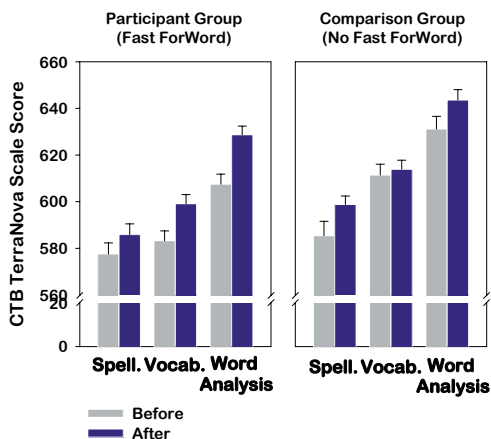
The school districts used the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 48- and 90-minute protocols, which call for participation 48 or 90 minutes per day, five days per week, for four to twelve weeks. On average, students used the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 product for 26 days over a period of 49 calendar days, and completed 44% of the product content. Students in the comparison group did not use the product.

Assessment Results

The TerraNova Survey Plus is a standardized, nationally normed test of achievement that is multiple choice and classroom administered. In this study, educators administered the relevant Language Arts and Reading subtests (Word Analysis, Spelling, and Vocabulary).

Students in the Fast ForWord group showed significantly greater gains across the three subtests than the students in the comparison group. On average, across the three subtests, the students who used the product gained over 60% more points than the students who did not (i.e., 15.1 vs. 9.4 points).

Greater Gains in Reading and Language



Educational Gains

The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using the Fast ForWord products results in the strengthening of foundational reading skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum. Students achieved significant gains in reading.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2000 – 2001

Number of Students:
112 students

Grade Level:
Third grade

Product Used:
Fast ForWord to Reading 3

Assessment tool used:
TerraNova Survey Plus

School Structures:
Pawhuska: Suburban
Harlandale: Urban