

Students improve 30% more than comparison group on state-wide proficiency test

Implementation Objectives

The Springfield City School District in Springfield, OH was interested in evaluating the Fast ForWord products. The study was designed as an experimental study involving the assessment of reading and academic proficiency before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Students in the study were fourth graders attending Title I elementary schools in the Springfield City School District.

Methodology

Each school selected students to participate in Fast ForWord. School personnel tested the reading and academic proficiency of all students at the beginning and end of the study. Student performance was evaluated using the Ohio Proficiency Test (OPT). Students in the comparison group were selected from among those with OPT scores available for analysis.

At each school, participating educators were trained in:

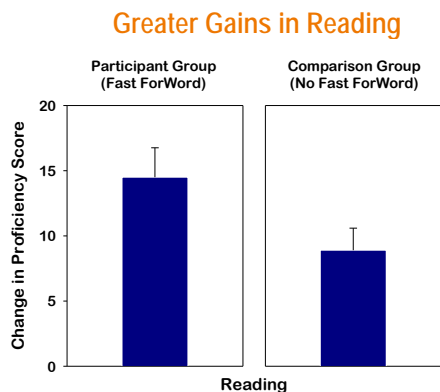
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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 district used the Fast ForWord 90- and 100-minute protocols, which call for participation 90 or 100 minutes per day, five days per week, for four to eight weeks. On average, students used the Fast ForWord product for 36 days over a period of 87 calendar days, and completed 49% of the product content. Students in the comparison group did not use the Fast ForWord products.

Assessment Results

The OPT is a statewide assessment that is administered to students in 4th, 6th, and 9th grades. The test compares student performance to Ohio's selected curriculum in five areas: reading, math, citizenship, science, and writing.



Students in the Fast ForWord group showed significantly greater gains than the comparison group did. The OPT scores of students who used the products improved 30% more than the scores of the students who did not. Fast ForWord participants demonstrated an average gain of 14.5 points, while the comparison group had an average gain of 9 points.

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.

Fast ForWord students achieved significant gains in reading.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2002 – 2003

Number of Students:
91 students

Grade Level:
Fourth grade

Product Used:
Fast ForWord Language
Fast ForWord Language to Reading
Fast ForWord to Reading 3

Assessment tool used:
Ohio Proficiency Test (OPT)

School Structure:
Urban

For detailed analysis of this data or to request other reports showing significant academic gains following use of the Fast ForWord family of products go to: www.scilearn.com/resultsreports

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