

Students gain almost twice the state-wide average on achievement tests

Implementation Objectives

The Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25 in Pocatello, ID, was interested in evaluating the Fast ForWord products. The study was designed as a case study involving the assessment of reading achievement before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Students in the study were attending middle and high schools in Pocatello/Chubbuck School District 25.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading achievement at the beginning and end of the study. Student performance was evaluated using the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). School personnel administered the assessment.

At each school, participating educators were trained in:

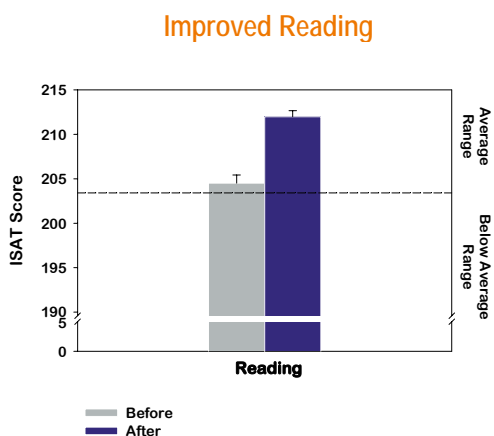
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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 chose to use the Quick Start versions of the Fast ForWord products. Therefore, product use data was not available for analysis.

Assessment Results

The Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) is a computerized, standards-based assessment produced by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). It contains multiple choice questions and is appropriate for grades 2 through 10. The test has reading, language arts, and math sections.



Overall, after Fast ForWord participation, students made significant improvements in reading achievement. Their reading score improved an average of 7.4 points, far exceeding the 4.1-point increase demonstrated state-wide by other students at comparable grade levels. Over half of the students who were in the "Below Basic" proficiency category prior to Fast ForWord participation moved up into "Basic" or "Proficient" category following participation.

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:
2003 – 2004

Number of Students:
150 students

Grade Levels:
Seventh through tenth grades

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Middle & High School
Fast ForWord Language to Reading

Assessment tool used:
Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)

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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