

Lafayette Parish School System improves language arts abilities*

Implementation Objectives

The Lafayette Parish School System in Lafayette, LA was interested in evaluating the effectiveness of the Fast ForWord products. The study was designed as a case study involving the assessment of reading skills before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Students in the study were retained fourth graders attending elementary schools in the Lafayette Parish School System.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study. Student performance was evaluated using the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for the 21st Century (LEAP 21). School personnel administered the assessment.

At each school, educators were trained in:

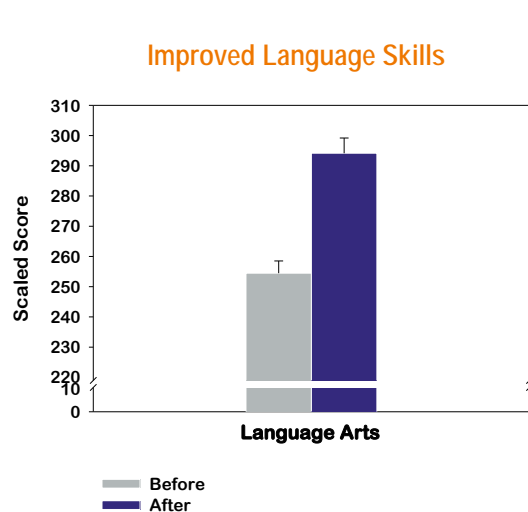
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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

Students participated 48, 50, 75, 90 or 100 minutes per day, five days per week, for four to twelve weeks. On average, students used the Fast ForWord Language product for 31 days over a period of 69 calendar days, and completed 81% of the product content. Most of the students went on to use the Fast ForWord Language to Reading product and more than half used the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 product.

Assessment Results

The LEAP 21 is part of Louisiana's criterion referenced state testing program. The LEAP 21 is administered to students in grades 4 and 8 and measures how well a student has mastered the state content standards. Students receive a scaled score and one of five achievement ratings ranging from Unsatisfactory to Advanced.



Fifty-one fourth graders who had been retained made improvements in language arts skills as measured by the LEAP 21. Scaled scores increased significantly from 254 to 294. The percentage of students performing at the Basic level of proficiency or higher increased from 0% to 49%.

Educational Gains

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

Students achieved significant gains in Language Arts.

* Presented at the Lafayette Parish School Board Meeting on June 21, 2006. This report does not constitute an endorsement of Scientific Learning or the Fast ForWord products by the Lafayette Parish School System.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2004 – 2005

Number of Students:
51

Grade Level:
Fourth grade

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Language
Fast ForWord Language to Reading
Fast ForWord to Reading 3
Fast ForWord to Reading 4

Assessment tool used:
Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for the 21st Century (LEAP)

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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