

Dallas ISD students improve skills by 21 months in half a year

Implementation Objectives

The Dallas Independent School District in Dallas, TX, was interested in continuing their evaluation 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 seventh through twelfth graders attending middle and high schools in the Dallas ISD.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study. Student performance was evaluated using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests (GMRT). School personnel administered the assessment.

At each school, educators were trained in:

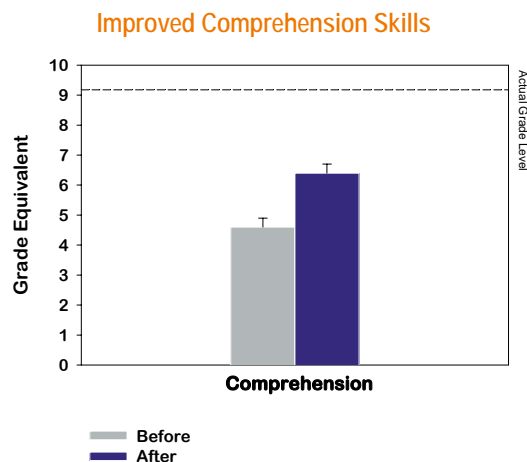
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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 or 50 minutes per day, five days per week, for eight to twelve weeks. On average, students used the Fast ForWord Middle & High School product for 40 days over a period of 100 calendar days, and completed 64% of the product content.

Assessment Results

The GMRT is used to assess a student's decoding, vocabulary, and passage comprehension skills. The test has two components, independently assessing reading vocabulary and comprehension.

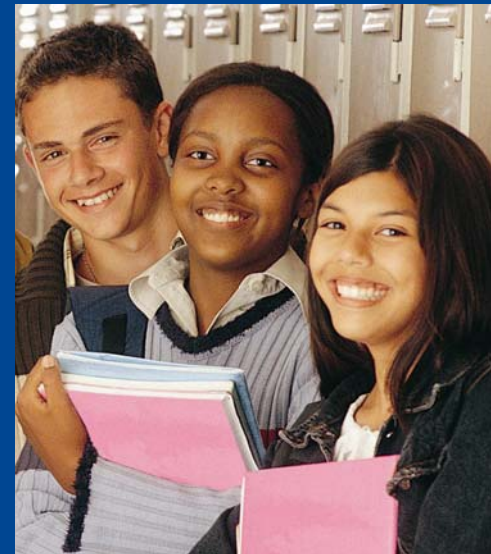


Students who completed at least 65% of the content in Fast ForWord Middle & High School made significant gains on the Comprehension subtest; scores, on average, improved from the 7th to the 14th percentile, a gain of 12 months in the five months between the pre and posttest. Additional completion of at least 65% of a Fast ForWord to Reading product resulted in greater gains; average scores improved from the 5th to the 15th percentile, corresponding to a 21 month gain in a period of six months (see graph).

Educational Gains

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

Students achieved significant gains in comprehension.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2005 – 2006

Number of Students:
275 students

Grade Level:
Seventh through twelfth grades

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Middle & High School
Fast ForWord Language to Reading
Fast ForWord to Reading 1
Fast ForWord to Reading 2
Fast ForWord to Reading 3
Fast ForWord to Reading 4

Assessment tool used:
Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests

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

Customer Service:
Phone: 888-358-0212 (US & Canada)
Phone: 701-298-6376 (International)
Email: customerservice@scilearn.com