After Reading Assistant use, students improve reading level 50% beyond expected gains

Scientific Learning Research Briefings: 15(16)

Study Objectives

Reading Assistant Expanded Edition software combines advanced speech recognition technology with research-based interventions, providing an individualized computer-based tutor for guided oral reading practice. In the 2010-2011 school year, a sample of 2,148 students in grades 1-12 completed the Reading Progress Indicator (RPI) assessment before and after a period of Reading Assistant use. This observational, multi-site study examined the development of general reading skills in these Reading Assistant users.
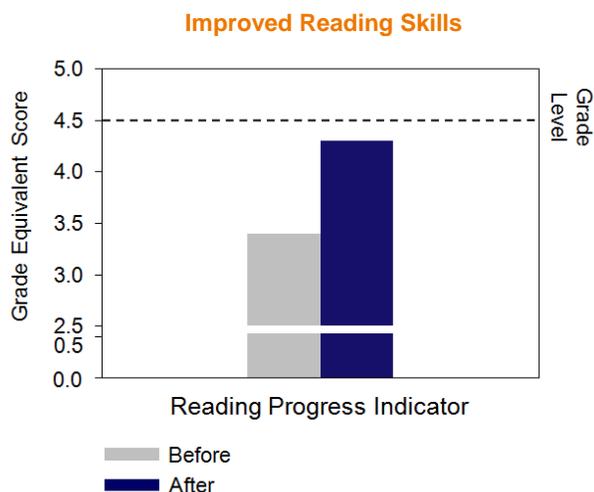
Methodology

RPI scores were collected from students who completed the assessment prior Reading Assistant use, and again 6 months later. Statistical methods were used to compare the scores from the two test administrations, taking into consideration the time between administrations.

Schedule of Use

On average, the study participants used Reading Assistant Expanded Edition software for 47 days over a period of 206 calendar days. The recommended protocols call for students to use the software three days per week, for 20, 30, or 40 minutes per day and 88% of study participants were following one of these protocols.

Assessment Results

Reading Progress Indicator is a computer-based assessment of the basic reading skills of phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension. Developed through a partnership between Bookette Software Company and Scientific Learning, RPI has been shown to correlate well with other nationally-normed reading assessments and with high-stakes reading tests from various states.

Improved Reading Skills

The study participants began the school year with an average grade level of 4.5. After using Reading Assistant Expanded Edition software, the students made statistically significant gains in their normal curve equivalent scores on RPI ($t(2147) = 28.1$; $p < 0.01$). The group average improved from the 22nd percentile to the 37th percentile, and from a reading level of 3.4 to 4.3.

Educational Gains

After using Reading Assistant Expanded Edition software for guided oral reading practice, the students in this study gained an average of 9 months in reading level within a 6 month period. The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using Scientific Learning products results in the strengthening of foundational reading skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum.

Study Overview

School Years:
2010-2011

Number of Students:
2,148 students

Number of Schools:
136 schools

Grade Levels:
1st-12th grade

Products Used:
Reading Assistant Expanded Edition

Assessment Tools Used:
Reading Progress Indicator

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