

Research and Outcomes Department

Los Banos Unified School District, Los Banos, CA

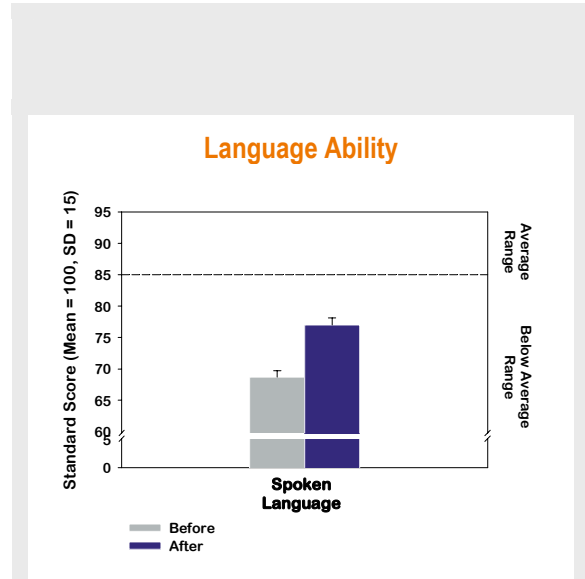
In 2003, 161 students in the Los Banos Unified School District in Los Banos, CA, used the Fast ForWord products. Assessments from before and after Fast ForWord participation showed that, on average, students made significant improvements in their language and reading skills after participation on the Fast ForWord products.

Approach and Methodology

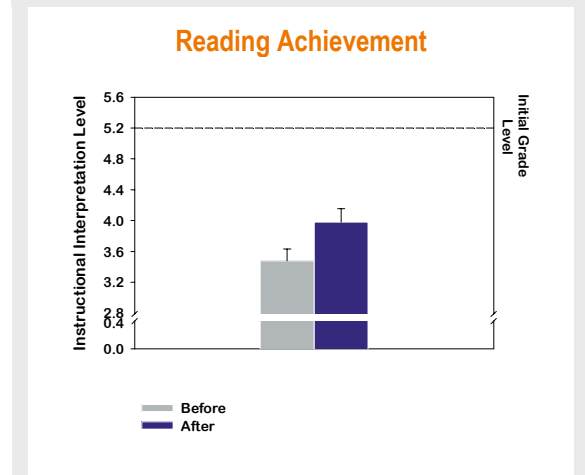
One hundred and sixty-one students participated in this study. Most of the study participants were from the Westside Intermediate School although a few were from an after-school program that had students from throughout the Los Banos USD. All participants used either the Fast ForWord Language Quick Start or the Fast ForWord Middle & High School Quick Start product. Some used the Fast ForWord Language to Reading Quick Start product, and a few may have started Fast ForWord to Reading 3.

Educators were trained in current and established findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills; methods for assessment of product candidates; the selection of appropriate measures for testing and evaluation; effective implementation techniques; approaches for using Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance; and techniques for measuring the gains students have achieved after they have finished using the product. This helped ensure successful product implementation.

School staff evaluated students' language and reading skills using the Test of Language Development- *Intermediate*, Third Edition (TOLD-I3) and/or EdVision (now Scantron Performance Series).



The overall language abilities of 118 students were evaluated with the TOLD-I3. On average, students made significant improvements in their language skills after using the Fast ForWord products.



Scores from the Scantron Performance Series show that, on average, students made significant gains in instructional interpretation level after using the Fast ForWord products.

Participation

The school district chose to use the Fast ForWord Language Quick Start and the Fast ForWord Middle & High School Quick Start products. Some students continued use with the Fast ForWord Language to Reading Quick Start product and the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 product. Detailed usage information was available for the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 product only. (Quick Start products do not have internet connections.) On average, students used the Fast ForWord to Reading 3 product for 38 days over a period of 136 calendar days and completed 24% of the product content.

Assessment Results

Before participation on the Fast ForWord products, 118 students were well below the

average range on the overall Spoken Language Quotient of the TOLD-I3. After participation, students made significant gains in their overall language skills moving closer to the average range.

On the Scantron Performance Series, 75 students were at an average grade level of 5.2, but were performing at an Instructional Interpretation level of just 3.5. After participation on one or more Fast ForWord products, these struggling students showed significant improvements, increasing academic achievement to an appropriate rate. This accomplishment allowed them to reach an Instructional Interpretation level of 4.0 in five months time.

Discussion

Language and learning skills are critical for all students, impacting their ability to benefit from instruction, follow directions, and participate in class discussions. Strong linguistic skills also provide a critical foundation for building reading and writing skills.

Scores from before and after participation show that, on average, after using one or more Fast ForWord products, students demonstrated substantial increases in their language and early reading abilities. Overall academic abilities also improved. This suggests that using Fast ForWord products strengthened the students' foundational skills and helped them benefit more from the classroom curriculum.

**To find out more about this study, and how
Fast ForWord products can benefit students in
your classroom or district, please
visit www.scilearn.com/resultsreports.**

