

Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25: Students Gain More Than One Year in Reading Skills

Implementation Objectives

Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25 in Pocatello, ID, was interested in evaluating the effectiveness of the Fast ForWord Reading products. Study participants were assigned to either a Fast ForWord group or a comparison group. Students' reading skills were assessed before and after participation on multiple Fast ForWord products. Study participants were seventh and eighth graders who attended Franklin Middle School in the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25.

Methodology

School personnel at Franklin Middle School administered tests of students' reading skills before and after students in the Fast ForWord group used the products. Student performance was evaluated using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests (GMRT).

The staff at Franklin Middle School was trained in:

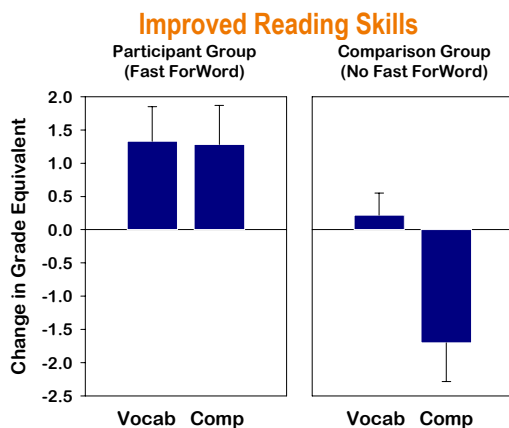
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques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

During the 2005 – 2006 school year, Franklin Middle School chose to use the 48-Minute Fast ForWord to Reading 4 Protocol and the 50-Minute Fast ForWord to Reading 5 Protocol, which call for students to use the products for 48 or 50 minutes a day, five days per week for eight to twelve weeks. On average, students used the Fast ForWord to Reading 4 product for 42 days and completed 83% of the product content. Some of the students then progressed onto the Fast ForWord to Reading 5 product, completing an average of 10% of its content.

Assessment Results

Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests (GMRT): 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.



When looking at grade equivalent scores, on average, students in the Fast ForWord group made gains greater than one year in vocabulary and comprehension skills, while the comparison group made little or no gains.

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 vocabulary and comprehension.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2005 – 2006

Number of Students:
54 students

Grade Level:
Seventh and eighth grades

Products Used:
Fast ForWord to Reading 4
Fast ForWord to Reading 5

Assessment tool used:
Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests (GMRT)

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