

Fast ForWord Generating Literacy Gains at Bonar Law Memorial High School, Canada

Scientific Learning Research Briefings: 15(9)

Implementation Objectives

School District 16 in Rexton, New Brunswick has implemented the Fast ForWord products in many elementary schools for eight years with very impressive results. They initiated a project with the goal to improve the reading proficiency rate of at-risk high school students, many of whom were First Nations students who do not speak English as their first language. Ninth graders from Bonar Law Memorial High School who were challenged with literacy used the Fast ForWord products during the 2010-2011 school year and the students' reading skills were evaluated before and after participation.

Methodology

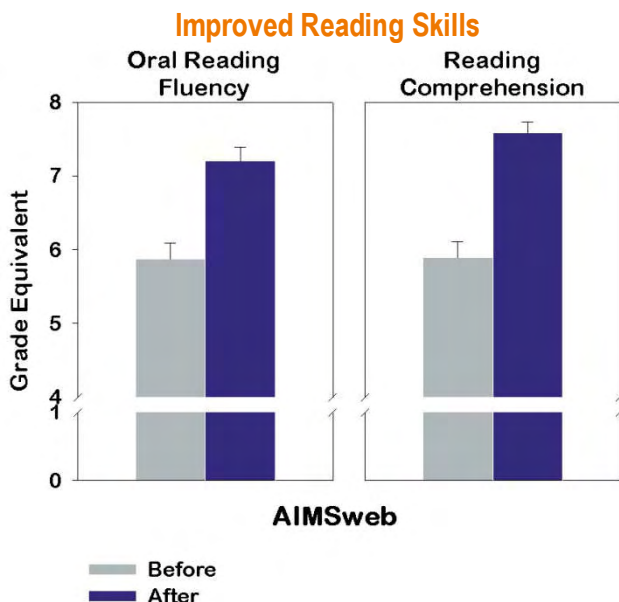
School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study with the AIMSweb. School personnel reported the scores for analysis.

Schedule of Use

The students used the 50-Minute Protocol, which calls for the students to use the Fast ForWord products for 50 minutes a day, five days per week for six to ten weeks. On average, the students used the Fast ForWord products for a total of 107 days across seven months.

Assessment Results

AIMSweb is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent and continuous student assessment. The results are reported to students, parents, teachers and administrators via a web-based data management and reporting system designed to determine response to intervention. Two tests, the Reading Curriculum-Based Measurement (RCBM) and the Maze-CBM were used to measure reading skills before and after Fast ForWord participation. The RCBM measures oral reading fluency and the Maze-CBM measures reading comprehension. During the 2010-2011 school year, on average, students made statistically significant gains in both subtests ($t(54) = 8.3$; $p < 0.01$ and $t(54) = 9.6$; $p < 0.01$, respectively), which is encouraging for the challenged population.



Educational Gains

Regarding results with the participants, Superintendent Lawrence Keoughan says, "This was our first experience using Fast ForWord in a High School Setting. We are so encouraged with the results, we didn't hesitate to launch the program again this year."

Students achieved significant gains in reading skills.



Program Study Statistics

School Years:
2010-2011

Number of Schools:
1

Number of Students:
55

Grade Level:
9th graders

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Literacy Series
Fast ForWord Reading Series

Assessment Tool Used:
AIMSweb
MAZE

District Demographics:
8.6% First Nations Students

Environment:
Rural and small urban

For other reports showing significant academic gains following use of Scientific Learning products go to: www.scilearn.com/resultsreports

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