

Research and Outcomes Department

Killeen Independent School District, Killeen, TX

The Killeen Independent School District in Bell County, Texas, is located near Fort Hood, the largest military base in the United States. The District serves over 32,000 students in 47 schools. All 27 elementary schools were classified as Title I schools in the 2003-2004 school year.

Initially, a single elementary school used the Fast ForWord® Language and Fast ForWord Language to Reading products, under the leadership of its principal, Helen Robinson, who now serves the district as Director of Special Education. She was first attracted to the products because of their research-based neuroscience foundation. Success at her school led to a gradual expansion to two other schools the following year, and then to a district-wide implementation in 2002-2003.

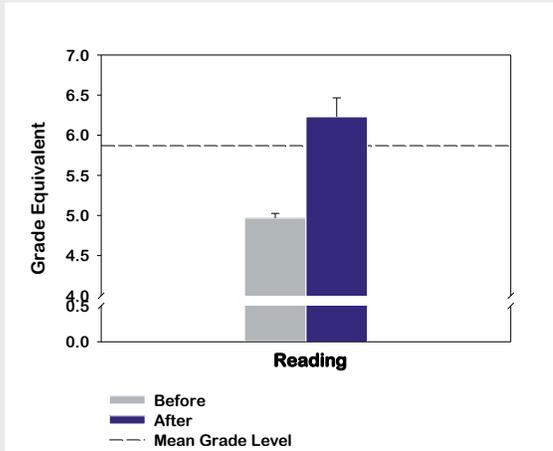
The Program Evaluation

Killeen Independent School District committed to intensive data-gathering and pre- and post-testing. They chose to administer the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test, which measures reading comprehension, concepts about print, semantics, and phonological awareness, along with Reading Edge. Students in grades one through nine were pre-tested on one or both instruments, participated on the Fast ForWord products, and then were post-tested with the same instruments. After another eight to twelve weeks, some of the students were again given the Gates-MacGinitie test, to determine whether they sustained their gains, and were better able to benefit from classroom instruction.

Approach and Methodology

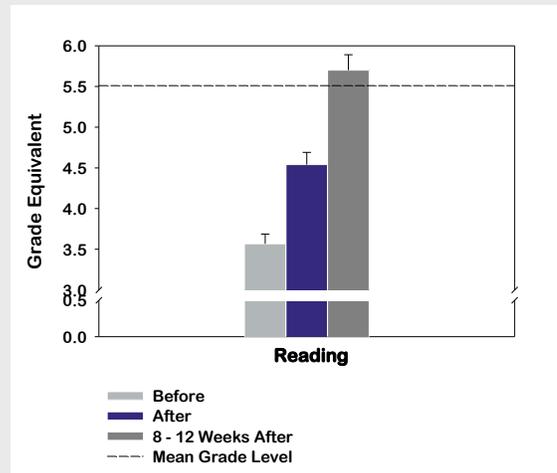
Over 5,000 students from the Killeen Independent School District used Fast ForWord products during the 2002 – 2003 school year. Assessment data from over 1,300 of these students were reported and included in this study. Products used included the Fast

Reading Achievement by Students who used Fast ForWord Products



Overall, a group of 1357 students showed significant gains in their GMRT Total reading score, a composite of vocabulary and comprehension scores.

Accelerated Growth in Reading Achievement Continued



In this analysis, 144 students had their reading achievement measured at three different time points. On average, after using Fast ForWord products, students made significant improvements, and then made further significant gains eight to twelve weeks after Fast ForWord participation.

ForWord Language, Fast ForWord Language to Reading, Fast ForWord Middle & High School, and Fast ForWord to Reading 3 products.

The students represented a wide variety of populations, including students with limited English proficiency and students receiving special education services.

Results

Significant improvements in reading achievement were demonstrated for various groups of students including elementary, middle, and high school students as well as students with limited English Proficiency and students receiving special education services.

As one example of Killeen's experience, a ninth-grade male student had been attending Special Education Resources classes but was still almost

unable to read. He also had significant attendance issues, and ended up in the principal's office weekly. After a few weeks working on Fast ForWord products, his attendance improved dramatically, and no disciplinary issues required the principal's attention. Most notable, however, was his reading improvement. Without warning, one day he volunteered to read aloud for the first time ever. Although he struggled, he made it through the passage. The next day, he volunteered again, and made some improvement. The third day, he again volunteered and completed the passage well. At that point, the other students in the class responded by giving him a loud round of applause! Later, he brought a book to class that he had checked out of the library. He told his teacher that this was the first time he had ever checked a book out for himself. The book was *Harry Potter*; he said he wanted to learn what all the excitement was about.

Strategy for Success – Best Practices

Killeen Independent School District has found that careful pre-testing and post-testing can quickly demonstrate how their students are progressing. Part of their success in funding districtwide implementation of Fast ForWord products comes from their ability to clearly show how these products have improved their students' overall reading ability.

To find out more about this study, and how Fast ForWord products can benefit students in your classroom or district, please contact us.

info@scilearn.com

[1-888-282-7401](tel:1-888-282-7401)

scientificlearning.com

