

Language skills in Albany County School District improved from the 18th percentile to the 54th percentile

Implementation Objectives

The Albany County School District in Laramie, WY, was interested in evaluating the Fast ForWord products. They used a case study involving the assessment of student language skills before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Study participants were seventh through ninth grade students.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' language skills at the beginning and end of the study using the Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS). School personnel administered the assessment.

Educators were 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

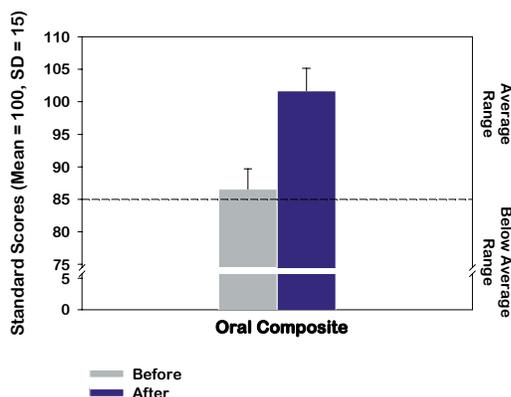
Schedule of Use

Students participated 48 or 50 minutes per day, five days per week, for eight to twelve weeks. All participants used the Fast ForWord Middle & High School and Fast ForWord Language to Reading products. On average, students completed 76% of the Fast ForWord Middle & High School product in 26 days.

Assessment Results

The OWLS is an assessment of receptive and expressive language. It is designed to assess vocabulary and grammar skills as well as higher-order thinking and knowledge of the function and structure of language. The Oral Composite, used in this analysis, is an overall composite for the Listening Comprehension and Oral Expression Scales.

Improved Language Skills



Analysis of the Oral Composite scores found students improved significantly in language ability after Fast ForWord participation. Students improved from a score of 86 which is in the low average range to a score of 101 which is in the middle of the average range. These scores correspond to an improvement from the 18th percentile to the 54th percentile.

Educational Gains

The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using the Fast ForWord products results in the strengthening of foundational language skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum.

Students achieved significant gains in language skills.



Program Study Statistics

School year:
2005 – 2006

Number of Students:
15 students

Grade Level:
Seventh through ninth grade

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Middle & High School
Fast ForWord Language to Reading
Fast ForWord to Reading 3
Fast ForWord to Reading 4

Assessment tool used:
Oral and Written Language Scales (OWLS)

School Structure:
Suburban

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

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