Educator's Briefing – March 2009

Indiana students exceed expected gains in their academic skills

Implementation Objectives

The Westfield Washington Schools in Westfield, IN, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the academic skills of their students. They used a case study involving the assessment of student language arts, math, and reading skills before and after use of the Fast ForWord products. Study participants were 5th through 8th graders at Westfield Intermediate and Westfield Middle Schools.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' academic skills at the beginning and end of the school year using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). 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 achieved after using the products

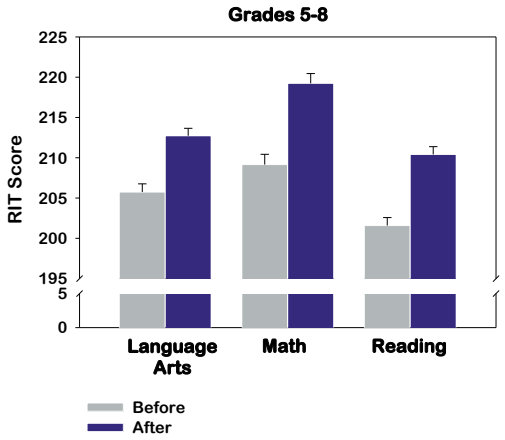
Schedule of Use

Students either used the 30-, 40-, or 50-Minute protocol, which calls for students to use the Fast ForWord products for 30, 40, or 50 minutes a day, five days per week for six to sixteen weeks, depending on the protocol. Students started on the products in the late fall of December and used the products for an average of 83 days before being tested on the MAP in the spring.

Assessment Results

The MAP is a state-aligned computerized adaptive test that accurately reflects the instructional level of each student and measure growth over time.

Improved Academic Skills



Ninety-eight students had RIT scale scores from these two time points and used Fast ForWord products. On average, the students made statistically significant gains in their Language Arts, Math, and Reading skills. Additionally, schools typically use the Growth Norms, published by NWEA, to determine if students met their academic goals for the school year. On average, student gains significantly exceeded the NWEA Growth Norms in all three subject areas.

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 language, math, and reading skills.

Program Study Statistics

School year:
2007-2008

Number of Students:
98 students

Grade Level:
Fifth through eighth graders

Products Used:
Fast ForWord Literacy
Fast ForWord Literacy Advanced
Reading Level 2
Reading Level 3
Reading Level 4

Assessment tool used:
Measures of Academic Progress

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

Contact us for more information:
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