

Students in Thailand improve their academic achievement by up to one year in four months

Implementation Objectives

The Ekamai International School in Bangkok, Thailand, was interested in evaluating the impact of the Fast ForWord products on its students. While the school caters to students of all races, nationalities, and religions, its medium of instruction is English and the curriculum follows the American system with additional classes on Thai language and culture.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study with the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). School personnel administered the assessment.

At each school, educators were trained in:

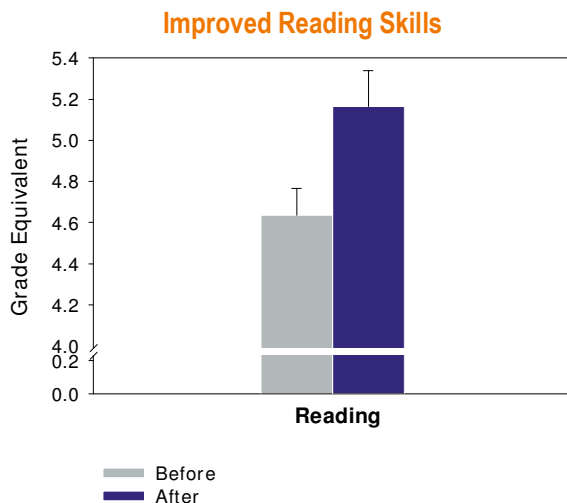
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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 primarily used the 40-Minute protocol which calls for product use 40 minutes a day, five days per week for eight to sixteen weeks. All the students completed the Fast ForWord Literacy product and then most spent a short time on the Fast ForWord Literacy Advanced product before using the Fast ForWord Reading Level 2 or Level 3 product. Overall, products were used for an average of 49 days during a four month period.

Assessment Results

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, or ITBS, were developed by the University of Iowa's College of Education to provide an assessment of students in kindergarten through 8th grade. The multiple-choice test evaluates students in the core areas (Reading, Language, and Math) as well as in subject areas (Science, Social Studies, and Information Source).



On average, students achieved statistically significant improvements in all six areas in which they were evaluated: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Sources of Information which includes the ability to read maps and diagrams as well as reference material. During the four months between assessments, average improvements on the six tests ranged from 5 months to 1 year. All subjects require strong learning skills including attention, memory, and information processing – skills improved by the Fast ForWord products.

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 several academic areas including:

- Reading
- Language Arts
- Math
- Science

Program Study Statistics

School Years:
2007-2008

Number of Students:
76 students

Grade Level:
Fifth Graders

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

Assessment Tool Used:
Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)

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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