

# Students in the Eldred Central SD improve reading skills from the 26<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 34<sup>th</sup> percentile

## Implementation Objectives

The Eldred Central School District in Eldred, New York, was interested in evaluating the effects of the Fast ForWord products on the reading skills of their students. They used a case study involving the assessment of student reading achievement before and after participation on the Fast ForWord products. Study participants were in 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade or 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Methodology

School personnel tested the students' reading skills at the beginning and end of the study using the STAR Reading assessment. School personnel administered the assessment.

Educators were trained in:

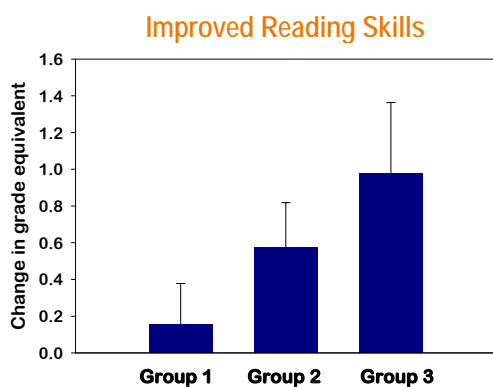
- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation
- Effective implementation techniques
- 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. Most students started with either the Fast ForWord Language or Fast ForWord Middle & High School product. On average, students used Fast ForWord products for 66 days.

## Assessment Results

The STAR Reading assessment is a criterion- and norm-referenced test of reading ability. It consists of computer adaptive multiple choice questions and is appropriate for grades 1 through 12.



on the students who completed one product (Group 1). The impact was mid-sized on students who completed one product and at least half of the second product.

## 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 reading.

After Fast ForWord participation, students, on average, achieved significant improvements in reading skills, gaining six months in reading grade level. The Eldred Central School District was particularly interested in evaluating the impact of the successful completion of the Fast ForWord products. Analyses showed that the biggest impact was on students who completed two products (Group 3 – 11 months gain corresponding to an improvement from the 26<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 34<sup>th</sup> percentile); the smallest impact was



## Program Study Statistics

**School year:**  
2005 – 2006

**Number of Students:**  
42 students

**Grade Level:**  
First through fourth grade  
Seventh through tenth grade

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

**Assessment tool used:**  
STAR Reading

**School Structure:**  
Rural

*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](http://www.scilearn.com/resultsreports)*

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