

# Reading comprehension skills of students in Ireland improve 2 years

## Implementation Objectives

The SMART Education Learning Centre in Castleknock, Dublin believes every student is unique and works together with each student and his or her parents to create an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). The Learning Centre was interested in evaluating the effectiveness of using the Fast ForWord products as part of their educational services for students in Ireland. Under the guidance of Centre staff, 10 students used the Fast ForWord products as part of their educational curriculum.

## Methodology

Staff at the Castleknock Learning Centre tested the students' reading skills with the Neale Analysis of Reading Ability: Second Revised British Edition (NARA II) before and after Fast ForWord participation. Assessments were administered by the Learning Centre personnel.

The staff 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 using the products

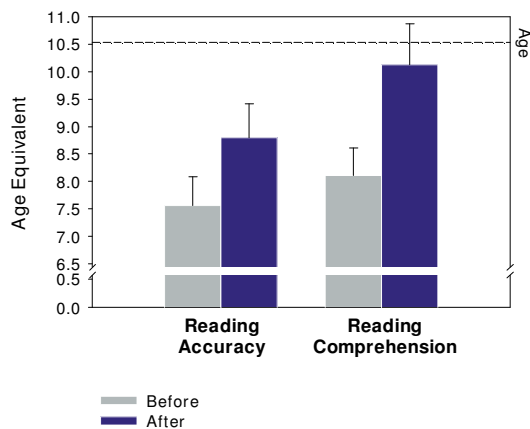
## Schedule of Use

Students participated for 48 or 50 minutes a day, five days per week over a period of two to six months. Almost all students began participation with the Fast ForWord Language product and continued with a Fast ForWord to Reading product. On average, students used Fast ForWord products for 65 days.

## Assessment Results

The NARA II is an individually administered test of reading skills designed to measure rate, comprehension, and accuracy of reading. It contains a series of short passages which the student reads aloud, followed by the student orally answering comprehension questions read by the test administrator. The assessment is appropriate for students 6-13 years old.

### Improved Reading Skills



The average reading accuracy age equivalent of the students at pre-test was 7.5 years and the average reading comprehension age equivalent was 8.1 years. In both reading skills, students were performing well below their actual age level of 10.2 years. After approximately four months of Fast ForWord product use, student reading accuracy increased by 14 months and reading comprehension improved by more than 2 years.

## Educational Gains

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

Students achieved significant gains in:

- Reading Accuracy
- Reading Comprehension



## Program Study Statistics

**Number of Students:**  
10 students

**Age:**  
Seven to fourteen years

**Products Used:**  
Fast ForWord Language  
Fast ForWord Language to Reading  
Fast ForWord to Reading 1  
Fast ForWord to Reading 2  
Fast ForWord to Reading 3  
Fast ForWord to Reading 4

**Assessment tool used:**  
Neale Analysis of Reading Ability:  
Second Revised British Edition  
(NARA II)

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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