South Australia: Significant gains in students' auditory processing skills

Implementation Objectives

Educators at Wynn Vale School in South Australia were interested in evaluating whether a group of their upper primary students would respond to Fast ForWord intervention. This involved the assessment of the students' auditory processing skills before and after use of Fast ForWord Literacy and Literacy Advanced.

Participants

Participants were students aged 11-13 years old who had been identified by their teachers as requiring assistance with literacy.

Methodology

School personnel tested the students' auditory processing skills at the beginning and end of the program implementation (October and December 2011).

Student performance was evaluated using the SCAN-3: C.

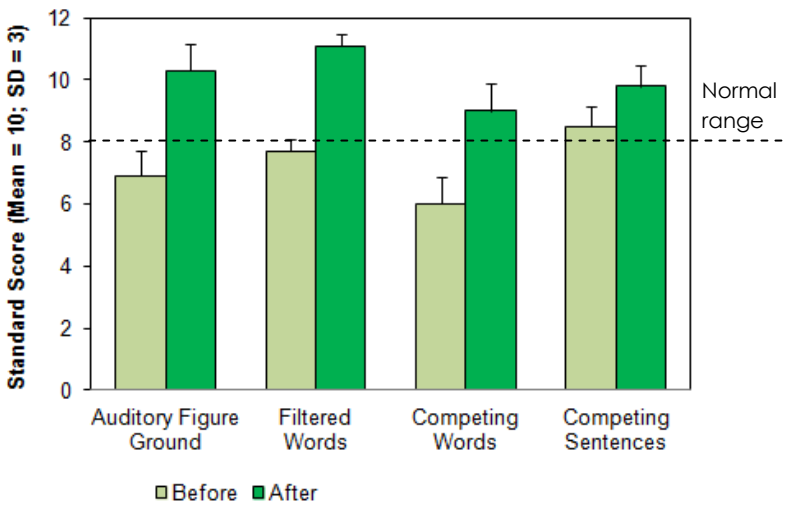
Educators at the school were trained by Sonic Learning in:

- Current findings on the neuroscience of how phonemic awareness and the acoustic properties of speech impact rapid development of language and reading skills
- Effective implementation techniques
- Use of Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance

Assessment Results

The SCAN-3: C is a normed measure of auditory processing skills.

Before Fast ForWord participation, the group on average was performing in the below average range in the Auditory Figure Ground, Filtered Words and Competing Words (Directed Ear) subtests and at the low end of the normal range on the Competing Sentences subtest. After using Fast ForWord programs, the group demonstrated significant gains in all four skill areas, with the group moving into the average range on all measures.



Wynn Vale School South Australia

Set amongst natural bushland, this small public school with just over 200 student enrolments boasts a leadership and learning culture where parents and teachers work together to foster in children a positive self-concept and a love of learning.

Fast ForWord implementation statistics (2011 school year)

Number of students

10

Year levels

Upper primary

Programs used

- Fast ForWord Literacy
- Fast ForWord Literacy Advanced

Assessment tool used
SCAN-3: C

Students achieved significant improvements with average gains on:

- Auditory Figure Ground (listening in background noise) – 21st to 53rd percentile
- Filtered Words (listening to a degraded sound signal) – 24th to 63rd percentile
- Competing Words (focusing on just one ear at a time) – 16th to 39th percentile
- Competing Sentences (listening to a sentence in each ear at the same time) – 35th to 47th percentile