

# Implementation of the Fast ForWord Family of Programs in Pottstown School District

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# Scientific Learning Programs

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- Fast ForWord Language
- Fast ForWord Language to Reading
- Fast ForWord Adolescent





# What is the purpose of Fast ForWord?

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- Fast ForWord is a program designed to improve:
  - Phonemic awareness
  - Phonics
  - Vocabulary
  - Comprehension
  - Listening skills
  - Memory skills
  - Oral language skills





# How does Fast ForWord work?

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- Computer training program
- Students use head phones to listen
- Speech is slowed down and gradually increased based on student performance





## How does Fast ForWord work?

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- Program adapts to meet individual student strengths and needs
- Students participate for 30 school days
- Students complete 5 twenty-minute exercises (100 minutes daily)





# Overview of PSD use of Fast ForWord Programs

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- Have used Fast ForWord programs since Summer 1999
- 1500 students have participated in Fast ForWord programs, to date



# Details Of Fast ForWord Language to Reading Study (Spring 2000)

- Study completed to provide data for doctoral dissertation
- “The Impact of the Fast ForWord Language to Reading program in Assisting 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students with Reading Skills”
  - 77 students
  - 2 elementary schools, 4 classes
  - Students of all ability levels
  - 6 week program
  - 55% free and reduced lunch rates



# Student Reading tests completed before and after Fast ForWord Language to Reading participation

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Students were tested with the Woodcock-Johnson – Revised in the following areas:

- Letter and Word Recognition
- Passage Comprehension
- Word Attack







# Results of Fast ForWord Language to Reading Study

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## Immediate Results:

- Low and average ability students showed significant improvement in comprehension skills
- Females made significant gains over males in comprehension
- Hispanic students made significant gains in phonic usage





Six months after completion of study, students were tested again in reading skills:

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- Letter and Word Recognition
  - 16 students showed 1-2 years growth (AE and GE)
  - 2 students showed over 2 years growth (AE and GE)

**(18 out of 61 students improved more than a year in Letter and Word Recognition)**





Six months after completion of study, students were tested again in reading skills:

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- Passage Comprehension
  - 26 students showed 1-2 years growth (AE and GE)
  - 9 students showed 2 or more years growth (AE and GE)
    - 5 of the 9 showed 3 years growth
    - 2 of the 9 showed 4 years growth

**(35 out of 61 students improved more than a year in Passage Comprehension)**





Six months after completion of study, students were tested again in reading skills:

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- **Word Attack**

- 11 students showed 1-2 years growth
- 9 students showed over 2 years growth
  - 2 out of 9 showed 3 years growth
  - 1 out of 9 showed 4 years growth
  - 3 out of 9 exhibited decoding skills of a high school/college student

**(20 out of 61 students improved more than a year in Word Attack)**





## Six months after completion of study, students were tested again in reading skills:

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- Out of 61 students remaining from the original study:
  - 30 students improved a year or more in 1 area
  - 16 students improved a year or more in 2 areas
  - 4 students improved a year or more in all 3 areas

(50 out of 61 students [81%] improved a year or more in one or more areas of reading)





# Pottstown School District Implementation

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- Research shows that all students benefit from the Fast ForWord family of products
- We are providing the opportunity for all 2nd grade students to participate in FFL
  - Each 2nd grade class participates for 30 school days





## Fast ForWord and PSSA

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- The 2002/2003 PSSA results reveal that:

Students who participated in Fast ForWord score, on average, **50 points higher in reading** than students who did not receive Fast ForWord training!





## Fast ForWord and PSSA

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- The 2002/2003 PSSA results reveal that:

Students who participated in Fast ForWord score, on average, **50 points higher in math** than students who did not receive Fast ForWord training!







# Fast ForWord and Title I Reading at Franklin Elementary

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- 146 Title I eligible students have participated in the Fast ForWord Language program.
- 66 of these students [45%] have been exited from Title I after participating in Fast ForWord based on improvement in reading





## Parent Comments

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- “My son wants to read to me constantly. He is using words I’ve never heard him use before!”
- “My son asks questions now; he rarely did that before. I can see a big difference in him.”
- “I’ve seen a lot of changes in my daughter. She is more expressive and asks questions using complete sentences. She has even started reading the newspaper!”





## Student Comments

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- "Fast ForWord is teaching us to listen the first time."
- "Fast ForWord is teaching us to learn and know our sounds and know our words and helps our brain to learn. Also, it is fun to play and I think it's a good thing we play it and I like it because it's helping me."

