

Student Selection

Which Students are Appropriate for Fast ForWord?

The Fast ForWord products can benefit a wide range of individuals, and no single measure can predict who will gain the most from using the products. A combination of observation and assessment will help you choose appropriate students. Here are some steps to help you get started.

Step 1: Use your professional judgment. As a teacher or clinical professional who has worked with the student, you know the student's skill level, motivation level, and can anticipate the student's ability to work on the products according to the product protocol.

Step 2: Choose students who will be able to comply with the product protocol. Scientific Learning's research indicates a direct correlation between adherence with the product protocol and successful completion of the Fast ForWord products. For this reason, adherence to the protocol should be a primary consideration. When you are selecting students, make sure they can follow the product schedule of 50 - 100 minutes a day, five days a week, for up to twelve weeks. (Different protocols are available. Please see **How to Use the Fast ForWord Products** in the Manuals section of the Resources and Support Center for directions on using the alternate protocols.)

Step 3: Gain support from all involved. Having the support of a student's family and other teachers is very important. Everyone involved should understand how and why the Fast ForWord products are so effective and should commit to making sure the student is able to attend each Fast ForWord session as scheduled. A great way to show Fast ForWord product's effects is to show past students' results on Fast ForWord. The Scientific Learning Web site provides a great resource of Fast ForWord students' results nationwide. Simply visit the Scientific Learning Web site, and click the Results link

General guidelines for student selection:

- Reading below grade level
- Shows little interest in reading
- Experiences difficulty associating letters with sounds
- Speaks in simple, short sentences
- Has difficulty communicating and following directions

*Reading Edge can also be used as an assessment tool

Students must be able to:

- Point and drag with a computer mouse
- Wear headphones that cover the ears
- Recognize primary colors
- Understand “small” and “large”
- Understand “same” and “different”
- Discriminate high and low tones
- Associate a tone with a symbol

*Fast ForWord Basics is a good tool to use to train a student who is having trouble with these tasks.

Additional considerations:

- Consistent attendance
- Family support for the program
- Regular classroom teacher support
- Can wear headphones for 50-100 minutes a day
- Can sit at the computer for up to 20-minutes at a time