



Find the Struggling Reader

Fast ForWord
by Scientific Learning

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Approximately
25% of all
high school
students read
"below basic"
levels.

Every day, America's middle and high school teachers are faced with the challenge of trying to educate 8.7 million students who are struggling to read at grade level. Many resources have been exhausted in an effort to advance these students' reading levels. During the last decade alone, millions of dollars have been spent trying to improve early literacy skills. But still, only 33 percent of eighth graders and 40 percent of twelfth graders perform at or above "proficient" levels in reading.

While students struggling to read in the second grade are easy to spot, by high school age their reading inabilities often no longer stand out. By that age, struggling readers have learned to manipulate the system to work for them. What manifests is not the lack of reading skills, but instead discipline issues, tardiness, truancies, and increases in dropout rates.

Breaking the cycle of failure

While there is no instant fix for this rapidly growing literacy crisis, science – or specifically, neuroscience – has made advances that can break the cycle of failure. *Fast ForWord*® software, by Scientific Learning®, is based on over 30 years of neuroscience research.

This series of computer-based exercises develops and strengthens the cognitive skills of *memory, attention, processing and sequencing*, which builds a solid foundation for improved reading ability. The products begin by focusing on auditory processing, so often underdeveloped in students of any age who struggle to read. It progresses on to building the essential reading skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension, while continuing to hone the cognitive skills necessary to produce not just a reader, but an effective reader.

The problem is not illiteracy, but comprehension

Learning to read is one of the most difficult tasks students face in their lifetime. Data has shown that many eighth and twelfth grade students do not have the capacity to perform the high-order cognitive work required for deep learning of content through reading. *Fast ForWord* software works to build the essential cognitive skills a student needs for text comprehension.

Before a student can learn to read, he or she must first acquire the necessary skills to differentiate sounds that make up words, and thus hear the differences between words. With this ability mastered, the student is prepared to make the leap from spoken to written words and map the sounds they hear to letters and text. Mastering the written language not only takes much practice, but as neuroscience research has shown, it also requires that a student's brain be ready to learn.

3 ½ Years Gain in 36 Training Days



Improved Reading Skills

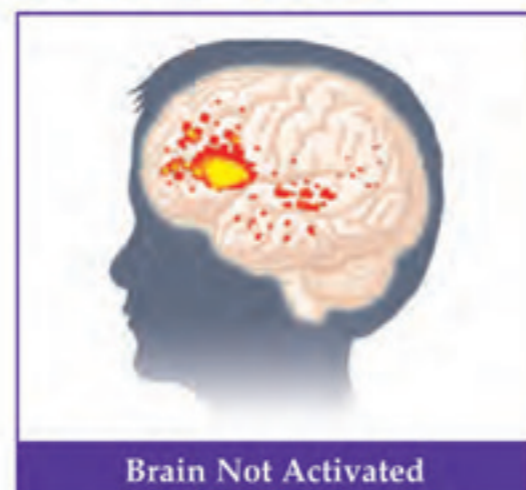
In the Dallas Independent School District, high school students moved from the sixth grade level to the ninth grade level in 6 weeks as defined by Texas State Standard for Reading Skills and Knowledge.

Effective reading intervention for the struggling adolescent

Research Proven: Fast and Effective



Brain Activated



Brain Not Activated

As demonstrated by independent research in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, intense use of *Fast ForWord* software activates areas of the brain critical for reading.

Temple, E., Deutsch, G. K., Poldrack, R. A., Miller, S.L., Tallal, P., Merzenich, M. M., & Gabrieli, J. D. E. (2003). *Neural deficits in children with dyslexia ameliorated by behavioral remediation: Evidence from functional MRI*. PNAS 100(5) 2860-5.

Cognitive skill development: The Critical Link

The *Fast ForWord* family of products is a proven, effective reading intervention strategy that accelerates the process of learning to read effectively. It is this acceleration, combined with the ability to fluidly adapt to each student's skill level that makes this program the critical link for significantly advancing struggling readers during the middle and high school years. The unique ability to develop the cognitive skills needed for effective reading derives from our patented technology and our FAST Power Learning™ formula of *frequency, adaptivity, simultaneous development and timely motivation*. This formula, in concert with our established protocol of use, quickly produces learning that endures.

"In just a couple of months, my reading level increased about three years. Fast ForWord gave me that nudge, that push I needed to get up the mountain."

Willy Brown
High School Student
Orlando, Florida

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