

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STUDY

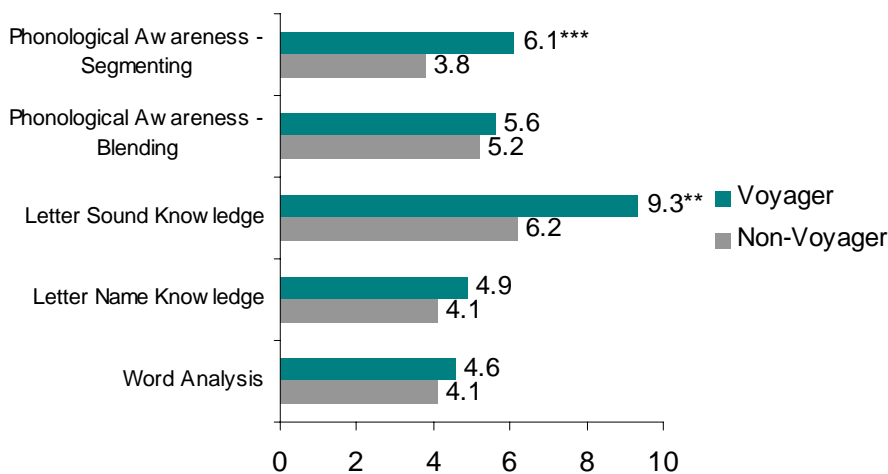
A Study Between Voyager and Control Schools in Orange County Florida Voyager Universal Literacy System®

Introduction

This report summarizes the second evaluation, directed by Dr. Steve Hecht, of the Universal Literacy System in Orange County, Florida. Economically disadvantaged kindergarten students were evaluated during the 2002-2003 school year. The effectiveness of an approximately 5-month period of use of the Voyager University Literacy System in two schools was compared to control classrooms from two other schools. Student progress was measured with reading-related tests administered to students by both impartial testers and Orange County Public Schools staff.

The Voyager program promoted growth in key reading related skills consistently across the current and the prior evaluative study conducted during the 2001-2002 school year. Voyager students outperformed students in the control group on the key measures administered by Orange County Public Schools staff. This is an important finding because it suggests that Voyager students were able to access knowledge about letters and the sounds that letters make in words and phonemic awareness skills at a faster rate than students in the control group.

Gains on Key Reading Skills



Note: Significance value for posttest denotes that that group scored significantly higher than the other group at posttest. A significant effect for gain indicates that that group showed greater improvements in performance over the pre- to post-test time period than the other group.

* (p < .05), ** (p < .01), *** (p < .001)

Control n=112 Voyager n=101

Principal Investigator

Steven A. Hecht, Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University

Main Findings

- Voyager students outperformed non-Voyager students on key measures.
- Voyager students are able to attain proficiency in key reading skills at a faster rate than students in other reading programs.

Study Profile

School Year: 2002-2003

Location: Orlando, Florida

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Number of Students: 213

Voyager Program: Voyager Universal Literacy System®

Assessment Tools: CTOPP, WDRB, WDMT, WRAT, CAPT, Stanford-Binet, RAN, DIBELS

Demographics

56% African American

12% Hispanic

19% Caucasian

13% Other

47% of students eligible for free or reduced lunch