Demonstrated Reading Gains for At-Risk Secondary Readers

2009–2012 Study: Effectiveness of LANGUAGE®

Summary: In this study of more than 31,000 students participating in LANGUAGE® during the 2009-10 to 2011-12 school years, students showed strong improvements in reading performance as demonstrated by Lexile gains. In both categories, students outperformed the Expected Lexile Gain of 30–90 Lexiles, and effect sizes ranged from 0.77 to 1.53, which is considered educationally meaningful and generally quite large. As LANGUAGE! Live incorporates much of the same research and instructional model as the highly acclaimed LANGUAGE! curriculum, one could expect similar gains for students enrolled in LANGUAGE! Live.

Assessment Tool: MetaMetrics’ Lexile® Framework for Reading is a normed measurement system that provides a common scale for matching reader ability with text complexity. The Lexile scale ranges from below 200L for beginning readers to above 1700L for advanced readers. The assessment is untimed and can be completed within one class period. Expected Lexile Gain is based on the expected weekly gain by grade level multiplied by 30 weeks of intervention. As students in the study are in various grade levels, Expected Lexile Gains vary as well so they are expressed by a range and only show one year’s expected gain, even though the books could have been completed over multiple years.

Effect sizes shown are based on the initial and final Lexile score means. Effect sizes are calculated by dividing the difference between initial and final means by the pooled standard deviation of the initial and final score means. Effect sizes of 0.2 are considered small, 0.5 medium, and 0.8 large. Generally, effect sizes of 0.3 or more are considered educationally meaningful (Cohen, 1988). In a Meta-analysis report about interventions for adolescent struggling readers by the Center on Instruction (Scammacca et al., 2007), overall effect sizes for multicomponent programs were moderate, with an average of 0.59 on the standardized measure of reading comprehension.

Findings: To measure performance, students were tested before and after participating in the LANGUAGE! curriculum to assess Lexile level. On average, students who completed Book A gained 145 Lexiles, and students who completed Books A and B gained 269 Lexiles; both categories of students surpassed the Expected Lexile Gains of 30-90L. Effect sizes ranged from 0.77 to 1.53 across the grade levels, which is considered educationally meaningful and generally quite large.

LANGUAGE! Live is a ground-breaking literacy intervention solution for struggling learners in grades 4–12. Explicit, sequenced lessons quickly accelerate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills so students can understand grade-level content and excel across the content areas. Based on more than 20 years of research, LANGUAGE! Live combines teacher-directed small- and large-group instruction with personalized online learning to target instruction to students’ specific needs and motivate them with relevant, age-appropriate content.

Why LANGUAGE! Live?

• All-inclusive system to support a broad range of academic levels that simplify intervention and teacher training
• An early emphasis on speech and language to build literacy skills
• Streamlined, cost-effective model with easy-to-implement components
• Embedded assessment system to track and measure progress
• NEW adaptive technology that leverages social media to promote learning
• Aligns to the Common Core State Standards and includes CCSS components

To learn more, visit www.teachlanguagelive.com