



Educational Solutions

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Recent Study Verifies that My Reading Coach and FLRT Improve Literacy

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Writer for My Reading Coach Teacher Newsletter

Interview with Joyce Serido, Ph.D., Researcher at the University of Arizona

What happens to a student who leaves school without being able to read? Before the elections, I met a man who admitted to me that he did not vote in political elections. When I asked why, he said *"I can't read very well."* He appeared to be in his early 60s. His laid-back demeanor, disheveled physical appearance, and glazed eyes told me that he was probably an alcoholic in a low-paying job or possibly unemployed.

I approached this man at a festival where I was helping a friend get elected to a local public office. We had a short five minute conversation. He told me he did not understand politics enough, so he never registered to vote. Because he could not read well, he was concerned that he would vote for the wrong person, thereby hurting his country. He could not make an informed choice or participate in a complex voting process.

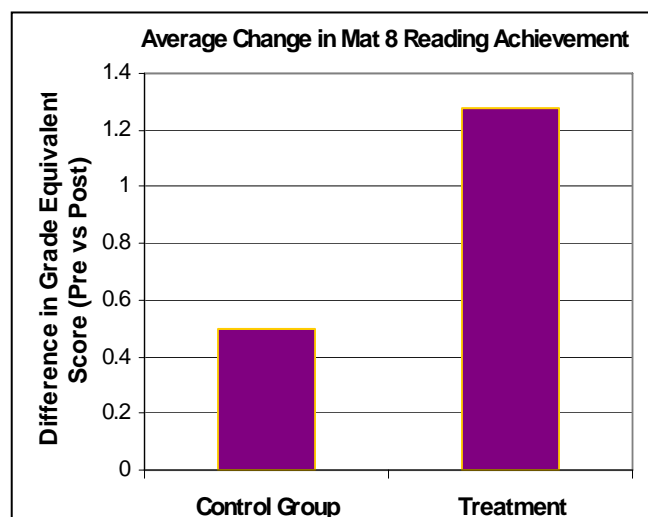
As the writer of the My Reading Coach Teacher Newsletter, I wished I could tell him about My Reading Coach. I wanted him to know that he could learn to read! All he would need was a computer and the willingness to work with My Reading Coach for sixty hours. Of course, this was not part of his reality, but I would have loved to give him the gift of literacy. I knew that if he attended school today, he would have the opportunity to learn to read. If he completed My Reading Coach, he would now be reading and perhaps voting in political elections.

My Reading Coach is changing peoples' lives because it works. The teachers who use it also contribute to its success. The program and teachers do the job efficiently and effectively. But, a recent research study conducted by the University of Arizona verifies that adding FLRT to My Reading Coach produces statistically significant results to improve reading fluency. My Reading Coach teaches students the basics of reading. When they have completed that program, they can read but not fluently. Supplementing their newly-acquired reading skills with *FLRT – a fluent reading trainer*, students are quickly transformed from 50 to 100 wpm readers to over 300 wpm readers with good comprehension.

University of Arizona Clinical Study

Joyce Serido, Ph.D., research investigator, reports that significant and compelling reading gains were achieved by students who completed the prescribed intervention: My Reading Coach and FLRT. Completion of the intervention means that students mastered all 61 My Reading Coach lessons (46 lessons for grade two students) and reached the target FLRT goal (reading fluently at grade level).

The average gain in total reading achievement scores represented an improvement of nearly three grade levels compared to an average half-year gain for the control group.



The change in reading achievement represents the difference in students' reading skills between fall, 2007, and spring, 2008, as measured by the Metropolitan Achievement Tests®, Eighth Edition (MAT 8, Harcourt, 2000). Similar results were found in the five remaining reading skills measured using the MAT 8 (see <http://www.mindplay.com/results/research> for additional details).

Dr. Serido states, *"The growth in reading skills of these students was far beyond what is normally achieved in a single school year. The two programs are a powerful combination, with My Reading Coach building foundational reading skills and FLRT developing reading fluency."*

The beginning reading skill levels of the treatment and control groups were equivalent, with the majority of the students in each group classified as reading below grade level (78% of the treatment students and 81% of the control students).

The study sites included four Arizona elementary schools (second and third grades) and one Texas high school (ninth grade). 77% of the students were Hispanic, and 44% were designated as English Language Learners.

My Reading Coach and FLRT Improve Literacy

My Reading Coach teaches students to read. But, when it is used in combination with FLRT, students rapidly become fluent readers. This translates to students graduating from school who are prepared to achieve their goals, develop their potential and take part in their society. Literacy enables students to become informed, involved citizens capable of exercising their voting rights--the heartbeat of any democracy.

Fourth Grader with Dyslexia Learns to Read

Laura Close, Owner of Close Education
Mother of 11 year old Jimmy; Fishers, Indiana
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Jimmy was smart enough to get As and Bs in first and second grade. But, he could not read. By the middle of third grade, he told me he was done trying to learn to read because everything he tried did not work. Then, I learned about My Reading Coach and I persuaded Jimmy to try it. He worked hard and, by the beginning of the fourth grade, he became a reader.

Jimmy started with My Reading Coach in March of his third grade year. He took the online assessment and scored at the 1.5 reading level. He worked on My Reading Coach at home 45 minutes a day, five days a week. When he entered fourth grade, he had just passed the Lesson 46 Review Test and was reading at the 5.5 reading level. That September he also passed the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISETP) reading benchmark for the first time. By January of his fourth grade year, he was reading at the 7.5 reading level. He completed the program and improved six reading levels in ten months, after 124 hours on the computer.

Now he works on *FLRT – a fluent reading trainer*, and he is reading at the 6th – 7th grade levels with correct rate, speed and comprehension. He is able to complete his school work during class time and does homework by himself. He is able to research homework questions on the Internet. Two years ago he could not spell the word “the.” He continues to make As and Bs in his classroom work, and his confidence has soared.

Between kindergarten and first grade he went to a Sylvan Learning Center. They admitted they had not helped him and recommended we do something. Through the Dyslexia Institute of America, Jimmy spent two hours twice a week at the center, plus 45 minutes of home therapy every night for 1½ years. He was burning out, so he began doing DORE, a series of physical exercises. At the end of second grade I placed him in a private school so he could work on the Discovery Program during the school day. He repeated second grade when we made the switch. He worked on this program for 2½ years. He also completed vision therapy which took about one year. Finally, I placed him on Fast ForWord and READ 180. Nothing taught him to read until My Reading Coach.

When he first started the program, I sat with him through each lesson. We motivated him with small weekly rewards. He became self motivated once he saw he was making progress. It took him many times to pass the lessons. After the Lesson 46 Review Test, he still believed he could not read. An educator gave him a book and asked him to read it. He said, “I can read this!” Once he realized he could read, his confidence and motivation improved. He kept going because he recognized there was a clear end in sight.

My Reading Coach works. It breaks reading down to finite levels of language. It makes students achieve mastery within those levels and gives them a system for learning. Jimmy needed the repetition from the technology. It carried him through the sound level to the word to the multi-syllable words. A neuro-scientist had

21 Year Old Young Adult Becomes a Reader

An interview with Jean, Consultant
Jean provides assistive technology to students
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My son was approaching the age of 21 and still could not read even though we had tried everything. He was diagnosed with intellectual impairment and ADD. Because of his determination, wonderful memory and outgoing personality, we did not want to give up. The MindPlay sales representative convinced me to place him on My Reading Coach. The sky is the limit for my son now, and My Reading Coach is the key that opened the door to his future.

When my son left high school, I was told that his reading level was “about first grade.” After taking the placement test on My Reading Coach, we determined he could read only a few sight words and had no phonemic awareness. He worked at home on the program 45-60 minutes three times a week for 10 months. He began the program as a non-reader, and 10 months later he completed lesson 36 and was reading at the 4.5 reading level. For someone who was not expected to read, he is currently studying for his driver’s permit and reads on the Internet.

My son is approaching 22 years old now, and his confidence is through the roof. He always was interested in magazines and catalogs, but now he is actually reading them. Halfway through My Reading Coach, he began going on line to fill out requests for catalogs and information about cars and mechanics without my help. He is working two jobs and hopes to drive to work in the near future.

The positive reinforcement and repetition in My Reading Coach worked very well for my son. He was able to learn because he has a good memory, but it took repetition. At his age, he did not have the tolerance to sit and receive reading instruction from tutors, teachers or his parents. The self-paced instruction on the computer was workable for him. I like the objective information the reports generate. I could see progress on his specific reading skills and learn where he was getting stuck.

I have worked in technology for over twenty years, and I can say from personal and professional experience: “*My Reading Coach is the real deal. It works!*”

told me that Jimmy would never be able to internalize the inner parts of words. This person would have given Jimmy a life sentence of illiteracy had he not been introduced to My Reading Coach.

Jimmy would like to tell other students who have trouble reading and spelling, “*It really helps you, and I think they should have it in school because it turns Ds and Cs into As and Bs. It is not like some other programs that tell you it is going to work and it doesn’t. Believe me, I had been through six before the Coach.*”

My Reading Coach has changed my son’s life. Not only can he read, but he can do his school work in a timely way. His success on the program feels like a miracle. My Reading Coach gave him the skills to become an independent learner.

Happy Holidays from MindPlay!

Tip to share in the newsletter? Want to brag about your students? Have a question about the program?
Something you would like us to change or improve?

Get answers to your questions or send your tips to mail@mindplay.com