

Secret Stories® Study: Kindergarten, Florida



Summary

The case study teacher implemented Secret Stories® in their grade 1 charter school classroom in rural Florida in the fall of 2021. Pre/post test scores were taken in the fall using the i-Ready® test, and the software created the projected scores based on normal yearly gains. In the spring, a post-intervention test was completed. Test scores were then compared to the projected scores, as well as to the same teacher's class from the previous year prior to using Secret Stories®.

This case study showed a substantial evidence of efficacy with a mean effect size of 1.05.



It is worth noting that the case study teacher's class outperformed her previous year's class (who did not use Secret Stories®) by an effect size of 1.46. Moreover, 80% of students in the treatment year's class reached grade level or higher, while only 14% of the previous year's class achieved grade level expectations, with 28% failing to show any progress.

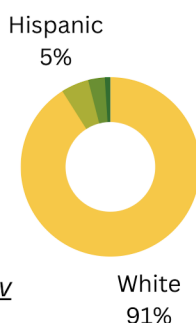
Product Description

Secret Stories® is a multisensory, neuroscience based approach to fast-tracking phonics skills for reading that can be used alongside any reading or phonics curriculum. Rooted in the science of reading and aligned with early brain development, Secret Stories® uses familiar schemas to help children make sense of the sounds letters make together, along with embedded mnemonic images to help them remember for independent reading and writing.

School Setting

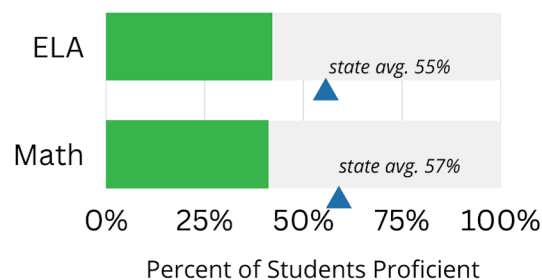
The case study school is a charter school in a rural district in which students consistently perform below state averages. The majority of students are below grade level, with 69% of the students in the school from low-income families. As of 2022, the majority of students are Caucasian (91%), with a small number of Hispanic and Black students (Figure 1). On average the school has 15 students for every 1 teacher.

Figure 1: Enrollment by Ethnicity



Source: nces.ed.gov

Figure 2: District Summary Ratings



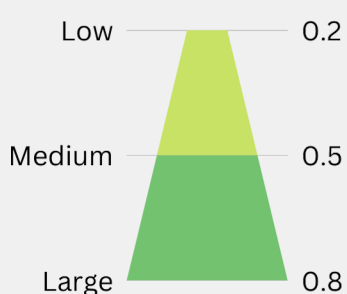
Test scores at this school fall below the state average. This suggests that most students at this school may not be performing at grade level.

Methodology

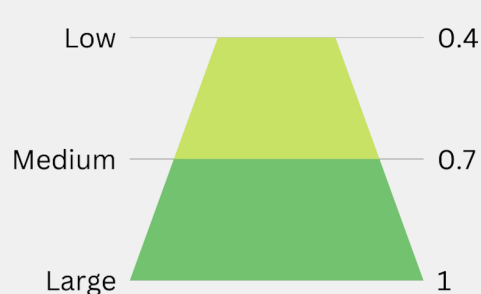
Results were measured using the i-Ready® reading assessment. The i-Ready® assessment is a digital assessment that measures student progress against expected standards. It measures phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Effect sizes were calculated by comparing the treatment group with projected scores and the previous year's scores when the teacher was not using Secret Stories®. All effect sizes were calculated using Hedge's G. All effect sizes were independently calculated by a second writer to ensure the integrity and then reviewed by an independent, third-party research firm.

Generally speaking, effect sizes for studies within reading education research can be interpreted based on the following benchmarks:

Studies with Control Groups



Studies Without Control Groups



Key Findings

Students who used Secret Stories® outperformed students from the same teacher's class the previous year who did not use Secret Stories® by an effect size of 1.46. Students outperformed i-Ready® projected scores by a mean effect size of .65. All but 2 students exceeded i-Ready® projections, with 3 students more than doubling the expected score. Indeed, 1 student achieved 294% higher than the projection.

While 80% of Secret Stories® treatment class reached grade level or higher, the same teacher without Secret Stories® had just 14% students the previous year on or above grade level, with 28% who failed to show any progress. This analysis shows a high level of efficacy for Secret Stories®.

Table 1. i-Ready® Results for Treatment vs. Student Projected Scores

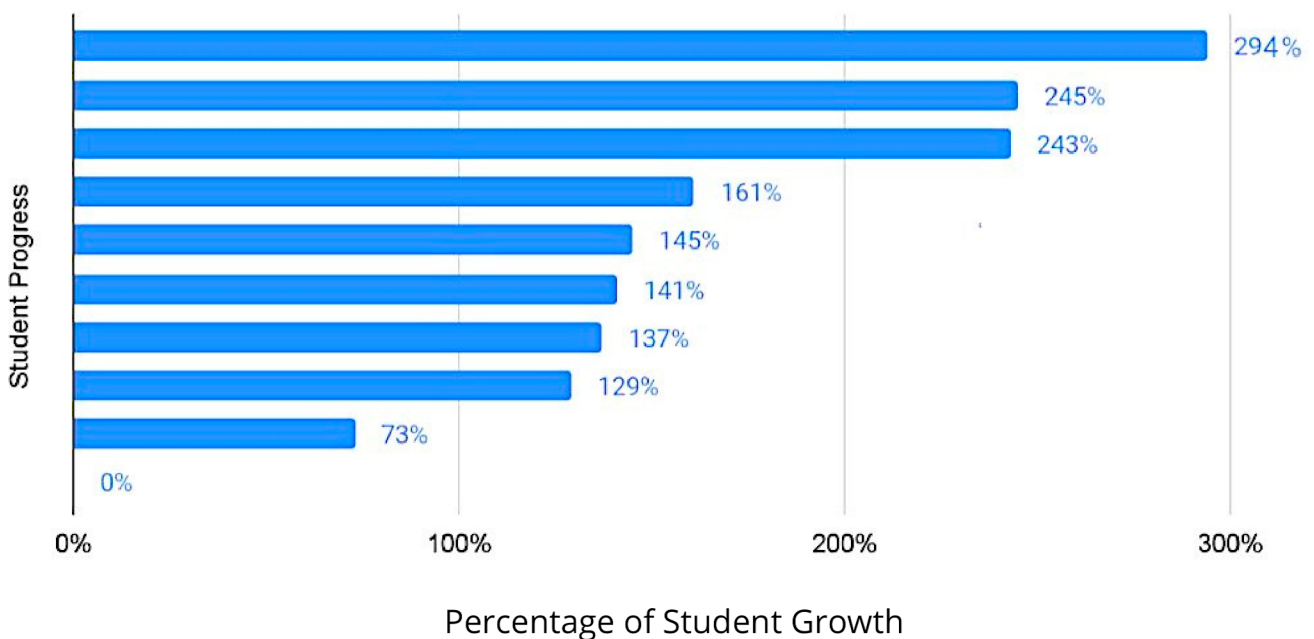
Group	Mean	SD	N	Effect Size (Hedge's g)
Treatment	156.8	86.41	10	
Projected Scores	100	0	10	.65



Table 1: Comparison of Treatment Class i-Ready® Results with Previous Year's Class with Same Teacher, but without Secret Stories®

	2020-2021 without Secret Stories®	2021-2022 with Secret Stories®
Mean	.51	1.568
SD	.43	.86
N	7	10
Effect Size	N/A	1.46

Figure 3: Secret Stories® i-Ready® Student Progress Compared to i-Ready® Benchmarks



Conclusion

This case study showed very impressive results when comparing instruction between 2021 and 2020. Of course, this was a very different year for instruction, so a second comparison was conducted by comparing the gains of the treatment class with the i-Ready® projected scores. Both comparisons demonstrated strong evidence of efficacy.

Research Limitations

This study report was written and analyzed via secondary data analysis, as the authors did not design the study. Fidelity of implementation of Secret Stories® could not be verified with this study.

Ethics Agreement

This case study was written by an independent firm on behalf of Secret Stories®, under a contractual agreement that all results would be published, regardless of outcomes and that no data would be withheld from said firm. All data and methods were independently checked by a third party education research firm not associated with Secret Stories®, or the writers of this report.



Independent Verification



Learning Experience Design (LXD)
Research & Consulting
a division of Charles River Media Group, LLC

This case study was written by an independent analyst on behalf of Secret Stories who verified the results. All reports were also independently reviewed by [Learning Experience Design Research](#), a third-party education research firm.

