

Secret Stories® Study: Kindergarten, Texas

Study Summary

The case study teacher implemented Secret Stories® in their kindergarten class in rural Texas in late October of 2020. The efficacy of Secret Stories® was examined based on pre/post student performance on the I-station® Indicators of Progress (ISIP®) assessment in September and April.

Despite 50% of students being identified as Tier 2 or Tier 3 at the beginning of the year, almost all (89%) had moved to Tier 1 by the end of the year. Moreover, the percentage of students at grade level rose from 50% to 80% after just 1 month of Secret Stories® use.



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 99% Hispanic, with 66% of students in the case study class identified as ESL. Three-quarters (76%) of students are from low-income households.

Figure 1: Enrollment by Ethnicity

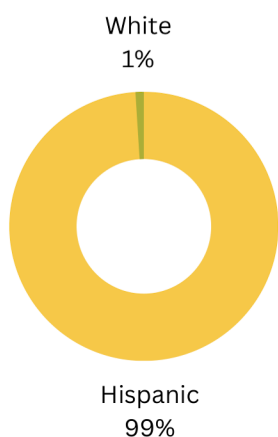
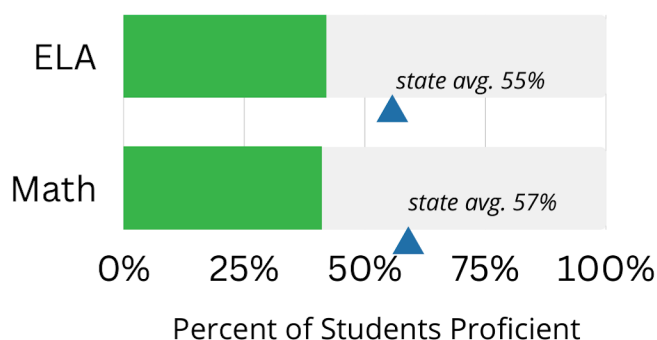


Figure 2: District Summary Ratings



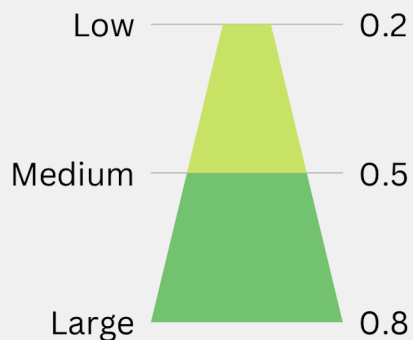
Source: nces.ed.gov

Methodology

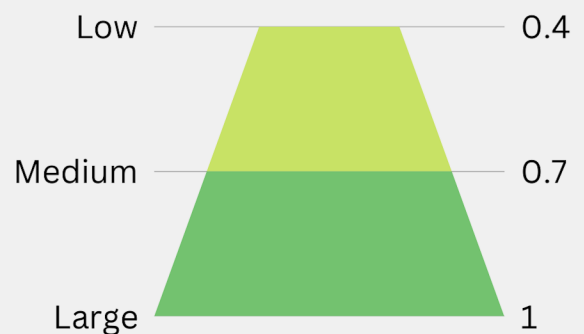
The teacher in this study implemented the Secret Stories® in late October of 2020. ISIP® reading assessment, which measures foundational reading skills, organizes students into three groups of instructional tiers. Students' tier designation was compared from September 2018 to April 2019.

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

The case study class had 50% of students identified as Tier 2 or Tier 3 at the beginning of the year. By April, almost all (89%) had moved to Tier 1. Moreover, the percentage of students at grade level rose from 50% to 80% after just 1 month of Secret Stories® use



Figure 3: September Pre-Test ISIP® Reading Skills Results Before Secret Stories®

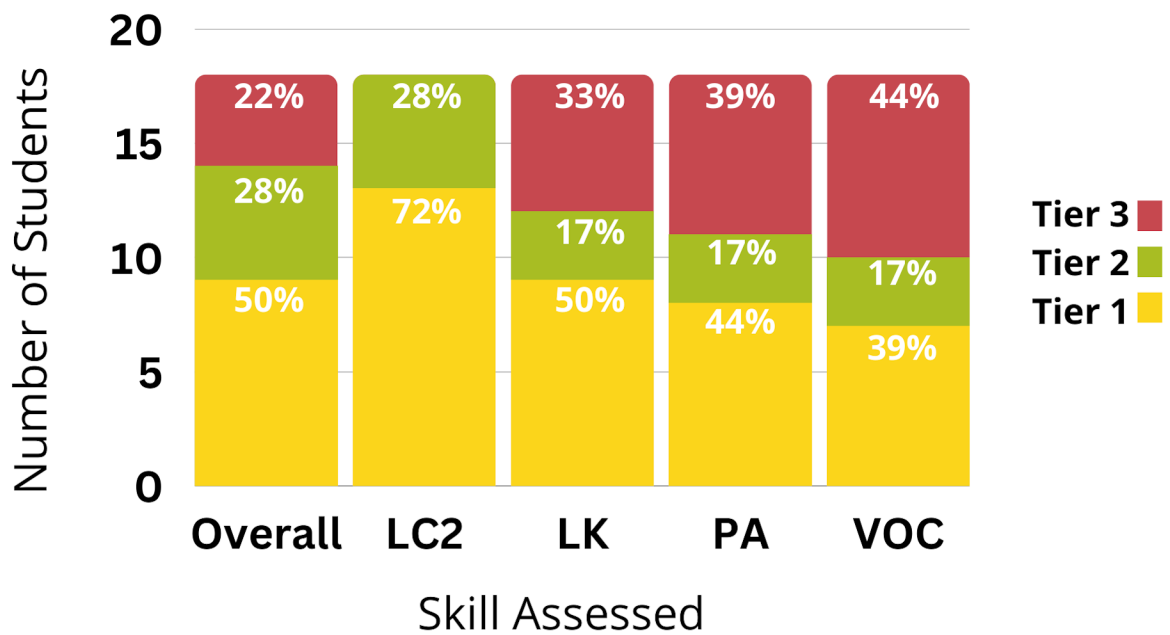
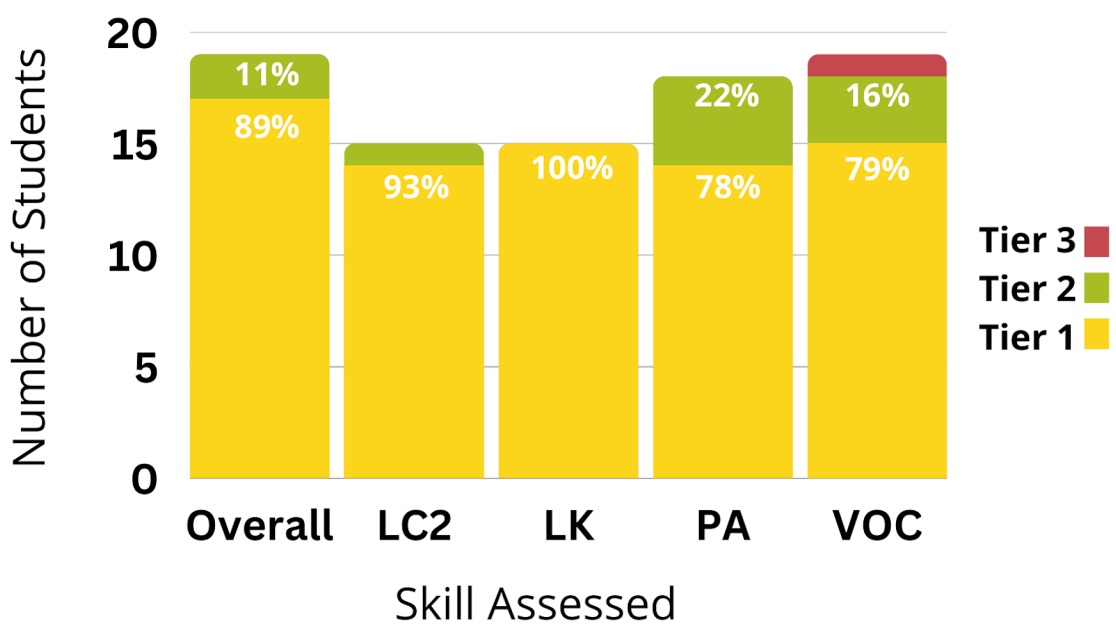


Figure 4: April Post-Test ISIP® Reading Skills Results After Secret Stories®



Conclusion

Despite 50% of students being identified as Tier 2 or Tier 3 at the beginning of the year, almost all (89%) had moved to Tier 1 by the end of the year. Moreover, the teacher reported that the percentage of students at grade level rose from 50% to 80% after just 1 month of Secret Stories® use. The teacher also reported an increase in students' comprehension scores, from just 40% at grade level at the beginning of the year, to 70% at grade level by end of year. These results suggest that Secret Stories® is a beneficial tool for helping to move students from Tier 2 and 3 to Tier 1 quickly, including students identified as ESL.

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.

