Imagine Language & Literacy: Increased Performance on the NWEA MAP Assessment

California Case Report

Background

Research indicates that computer assisted instruction can positively impact students' performance in language and literacy development (Cassady & Smith, 2004; 2005; Cheung & Slavin, 2011; Macaruso & Rodman, 2011). Imagine Learning is instructional software designed to build language and literacy skills among students in pre-K through sixth grade, and for English Language Learner (ELL) students in pre-K through eighth grade. To improve language and literacy achievement, Imagine Learning features instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, grammar, and language development (both academic and conversational). The program aligns with educational standards and addresses skills students need to become proficient in reading.

During the 2017–2018 school year, fifteen elementary schools in a California school district implemented Imagine Language & Literacy as a supplemental tool for students in grades pre-K through fifth grade. To determine the impact of the program on student growth, we utilized NWEA MAP scores from the beginning and end of the school year for approximately 7,500 program users. Students in the California school district used the program, on average, for almost twenty hours across the school year.

Results

The graphic below presents the average MAP RIT score growth by grade for students who used Imagine Language & Literacy during the 2017–2018 school year. Further, the graphic displays average growth values separately for students classified as ELLs. Finally, the graphic also presents the NWEA MAP 2015 national norms as a comparison to expected growth levels. Ultimately, these results demonstrate that students in all grades that used the Imagine Language & Literacy program enjoyed greater than expected RIT score growth when compared to the 2015 national norms. Further, for grades pre-K and 3–5, the average growth for ELL student surpassed the overall average values. Therefore, it appears that use of the Imagine Language & Literacy program favorably impacted the average RIT score growth for the students who used it during the 2017–2018 school year.

Conclusions

The results of this study support the role of Imagine Language & Literacy as a supplementary tool for the development of language and literacy achievement. Students who used the program in the California school district for the 2017–2018 school year experienced consistent improvements in language and literacy proficiency as demonstrated by performance on the NWEA's MAP assessment. Given these findings, we would expect similar results for other students who use the Imagine Language and Literacy program with fidelity.

Note: Norms not established for Pre-K

Users   ELL Users   2015 national norms