Student Results

Each year test data is gathered from *QuickSmart* students and comparison students. Schools submit both pre-test and post-test data for these students. These data enable us to provide each school with a report outlining student progress and growth. An analysis of these test data is presented in a yearly literacy report.

Analysis of the test data has provided evidence of very strong improvement in students' rate of reading and substantial improvement in word meaning. *QuickSmart* students achieve significant improvements in their level of fluency.

Furthermore, *QuickSmart* students demonstrate strong improvement in their reading comprehension skills. *QuickSmart* students enjoy the program and see benefits outside the classroom as well.

In 2020, *QuickSmart* was awarded the *HTB Harris Award for an innovative program that has proven to successfully fulfil an educational need or problem over time* by the Australian College of Educators.

The *QuickSmart* program shows low-achieving middle school students who complete the program consistently achieve up to three years of academic growth over the normal course of the program.

Professor John Pegg said: "The idea of *QuickSmart* is that if at-risk learners are given a genuine second-chance to succeed, the results can be life-changing. Many tens of thousands of learners in Australia can now testify that this statement is true for them."

In 2018, *QuickSmart* was one of only four Education Research Case Studies across Australian Universities to achieve top ratings for all categories in the Engagement and Impact Assessment conducted by the Australian Research Council.

Resources

***QuickSmart* Literacy Program User Guide**
The *QuickSmart* Literacy program User Guide provides detailed guidelines for the planning and implementation of the programs.

Literacy Kit
The literacy resource folder includes flash card sets, word meaning cards and games.

Literacy Resource & Organisation Folder
The Literacy Resource & Organisation Folder includes master copies, planning notes, graphing sheets, focus word sheets, reading texts, comprehension sheets, word meaning and word study sheets which are required to implement the program.

***QuickSmart* Portal (new in 2021)**
All *QuickSmart* instructors obtain a username and password for the private area of our website. This gives schools the option of downloading all the resources and grants them access to additional material.

Computer-based Assessment of Academic Skills Software (OZCAAS)
The OZCAAS software can be downloaded from the Portal and is used on a regular basis to monitor the response times and accuracy of QuickSmart students.

To read more about the *QuickSmart* program, including evidence, costs, sign-up guides, FAQs, workshop calendar and more, please visit our website: https://simerr.une.edu.au/quicksmart

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quicksmart
Literacy

Literacy Program Explained

General Information

The *QuickSmart* Literacy Program is an educational intervention designed to support literacy skill development.

The *QuickSmart* Literacy program provides instruction that is planned to meet individual student learning needs. The program follows a structured lesson sequence based around a "focus set" of words and related text. Teaching and learning strategies include explicit strategy instruction, cognitive and meta-cognitive strategies, and deliberate practice.

The program incorporates the OZCAAS computer assessment tool that provides information about each student's accuracy and speed of recalling words and reading for meaning. Students aim to increase their accuracy and decrease response times as a means of demonstrating increasing automaticity. Assessment of learning and assessment for learning is a continuous cycle in the *QuickSmart* program.

Information gained from listening to students read, from observing their understanding of how words are constructed (i.e. their phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and phonic knowledge), and their knowledge and use of comprehension strategies, forms the basis of instructional decision-making and individualisation of comprehension strategies, forms the basis of instructional decision-making and individualisation of instruction in the *QuickSmart* Program.

QuickSmart Structure

QuickSmart students receive three lessons a week, at 30 minutes each. They work in pairs with one instructor outside the normal classroom. Each student is expected to receive 90 lessons in *QuickSmart* in order to reach automaticity and strengthen neural pathways.

QuickSmart Training and Workshops

The *QuickSmart* professional development program is aimed at teachers, learning support officers, teacher aides and in smaller schools even parents. In order to instruct students in the *QuickSmart* Literacy program, educators have to complete a course of three two-day workshops. During the workshops, all elements of the program are taught and practised.

Workshop 1 focuses on starting the program and the basic lesson structure of *QuickSmart* Literacy. During Workshop 2 participants share implementation experiences and practise the comprehension lesson structure. At Workshop 3 instructors prepare a case study and are shown how to complete the assessments and submit their student data for reporting. The workshops run during the first year of *QuickSmart* in the school. There is an opportunity to train more staff in later years.

Benefits to Students

Students most likely to succeed and benefit from the *QuickSmart* program are those who:
- experience persistent difficulty in decoding words, reading fluently, and reading for understanding;
- display a good attitude to learning in small groups; and
- attend school regularly.

Additionally, students may benefit from the *QuickSmart* Literacy program if they have:
- recorded low performance in national basic skills tests; or
- below average results in school or class administered standardized tests, which require reading skills.

Teacher observations are also important for identifying students who may benefit from the *QuickSmart* program. Those students who lack confidence in participating in classroom activities could also improve their performance when given the opportunity to be part of a focused *QuickSmart* program.

Literacy Lessons

There are three types of *QuickSmart* Literacy lessons: Introduction lesson, Basic lesson and Comprehension lesson

Introduction Lesson

During the first lesson the text is introduced to the student by discussing words and reading.

Basic Lesson

The reading lesson focuses on reaching fluency and understanding meanings of individual words that relate to a selected text. Each component (1-6) is 5 minutes in duration. This lesson is generally repeated 4 – 7 times.

Comprehension Lesson

When students have learnt the focus words and their meanings, and can read the passage fluently, comprehension lessons will be included in *QuickSmart* lessons.

Selected Text

Introduction Lesson:
- Distribute and discuss text
- Model reading of text
- Focus Words
- Flash Cards

Basic Lesson:
1. Focus words
2. Word Study
3. Flash Cards
4. Repeated Reading
5. Read a book or OZCAAS
6. Games

Comprehension Lesson:
- Focus Words & Word study
- Comprehension strategy cards
- Answer questions
- Model, scaffold, ensure success