

St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School and Arrowsmith Program Pilot Project

Introduction

In November 1997, in co-operation with St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School, a seven month pilot project was undertaken. Seventeen students were selected from the grade 9 intake. Initial testing indicated that all of the students had at least 7 of the 9 learning dysfunctions the testing screened for. The pilot project was designed around exercises to work on the following areas: Motor Symbol Sequencing, Symbol Relations, Symbol Recognition and Quantification Sense. The students spent half of each school day working on the four Arrowsmith programs and the other half day in grade 9 credit courses.

Academic Changes

After 7 months of treatment, the average change in course work from term 1 to term 2 was 11%. The following tables summarize the averaged quantitative improvements seen in the students.

Academic Testing

- Reading Comprehension 1.3 grades
- Reading for Understanding 1.0 grade
- Reading Speed 1.5 grades
- Word Recognition 2.2 grades
- Crossing Letters 18 %ile
- Vocabulary 16 %ile
- Visual Memory 15 %ile
- Arithmetic 0.7 grades
- Spelling 0.4 grades
- Differential Aptitude Test Verbal Reasoning 8 %ile
- Clerical Speed & Accuracy 21 %ile
- Test of Written Language Written Language IQ 11 points

Improvement Rating

At the end of the pilot project, the students and their parents were asked to complete a survey to provide a qualitative measure of the effects of the programs. Both groups were asked to rank the perceived changes in a number of areas as shown in the table below.

Student & Parent Evaluations

Extremely Noticeable Somewhat Noticeable No Change

	to Very Noticeable	to Noticeable	Noticeable
Concentration Span			
Student Rating	54%	46%	
Parent Rating	57%	43%	
Ability to Focus			
Student Rating	54%	39%	7%
Parent Rating	57%	36%	7%
Following Instructions			
Student Rating	62%	38%	
Parent Rating	72%	21%	7%
Listening Skills			
Student Rating	39%	61%	
Parent Rating	57%	43%	
Organizational Skills			
Student Rating	61%	39%	
Parent Rating	57%	36%	7%
Time Management			
Student Rating	62%	38%	
Parent Rating	43%	50%	7%
Ability to Express Self Orally			
Student Rating	61%	31%	8%
Parent Rating	64%	29%	7%
Growth of Self Esteem			
Student Rating	54%	8%	38%
Parent Rating	86%	7%	7%

Parent Comments:

Jonah is starting to show his true strengths where before they were locked in his head. He used to spend hours on one assignment and still not be able to express his thoughts in writing. However, now he is able to do these assignments much quicker and with great results. As a result, his self confidence has increased a great deal and he is happier. We have seen a great improvement in his organizational skills in all areas of his life. We are very pleased with this program and very grateful that our son was able to participate.

Michael has more confidence to try doing his schoolwork on his own and gets really excited when work he has done is done well and gets a good grade. He seems to enjoy accomplishing things in school on his own. He would never dare try that before. It has given him great self confidence.

Scott has made more progress in this year than in any other year!

I want this program to continue because I have seen a lot of improvement in Diane's marks.

Chris's grade level has gone up and his most recent grade scores would suggest progress is clearly evident.

Carson has shown a great deal of improvement in schoolwork and at home.

I believe the program has done wonders for Rodney. He seems to be much more confident in all aspects of his daily routine and his enthusiasm shows.

There is a very noticeable change in Richard's development.

In his other subjects his marks have gone up.

*It has helped David in everything he says and does.
I see remarkable improvement.*