



**ReadingHorizons**  
The Foundation for Reading English

# Results

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Scientifically-based Research Underpinning the Rationales of the *Reading Horizons* Reading System at King County Youth Facility.

***Reading Horizons***

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**Scope of Work:**

Case study conducted by King County Youth Services, a pilot project with Reading Horizons software

**Tool:**

Pre- and post-tests provided with the Reading Horizons courseware

**Timeframe:**

Eight-month study conducted between November 1997-June 1998

**Demographics Population:**

Juveniles Charged: 7,377  
 Incarcerated: 6,682  
 Detention School: 5,629

**Racial and Ethnic Background:**

(in percentages)  
 White: 47.77%  
 African American: 34.81%  
 Asian: 8.08%  
 Hispanic: 4.73%  
 Native American: 2.90%  
 Pacific Islander or Other: 1.17%

**Other Statistics**

Repeat offenders: 75%  
 Cost of incarceration: \$144-\$180 per day  
 Estimated low-income families: 75%-80%  
 95% of repeat offenders attend school only when incarcerated.

## King County Youth Facility

Seattle, Washington

Educators at King County School in Seattle, Washington experienced phenomenal results with the Reading Horizons software. Every student who completed the program progressed three or four grade levels in a period of six weeks to two months. By contrast, the educators at King county found that traditional methods, such as one-on-one tutoring, rarely improved students' reading skills more than one grade level every three months. These results were imbued with great meaning for educators at King County because they have seen the ability to read become a powerful motivator for students who had given up hope of a better future.

Student	Pre-test	Post-test	Increase	Time
1	4.0	7.4	3.4	8 weeks
2	1.6	3.8	2.2	2 weeks
3	2.6	5.1	2.5	6 weeks
4	7.8	8.6	0.8	2 weeks
5	4.0	7.7	3.7	4 weeks
6	1.0	2.0	1.0	6 weeks
7	1.0	1.3	0.3	4 weeks
8	7.4	8.8	1.4	9 weeks
9	0.4	0.7	0.3	6 weeks
10	4.8	6.9	2.1	8 weeks
11	5.5	7.0	1.5	2 weeks
12	2.6	5.3	2.7	6 weeks
13	5.5	6.5	1.0	4 weeks
<b>Average</b>	3.7	5.5	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5.2 weeks</b>

\*Not all students had completed coursework when pilot results were submitted.

**Evaluator's Observations:** The evaluator expressed outcomes as "phenomenal results" and said that every participant completing the program increased three or four grade levels. Most students finished the basic phonics software program in about six weeks to two months. It was reported that, by contrast, traditional methods such as intensive one-on-one tutoring rarely improved students' reading skills more than one grade level every three months. The evaluator expressed the observation that what makes the project even more important is that learning to read becomes a powerful motivator for students who have given up hope of a better future.