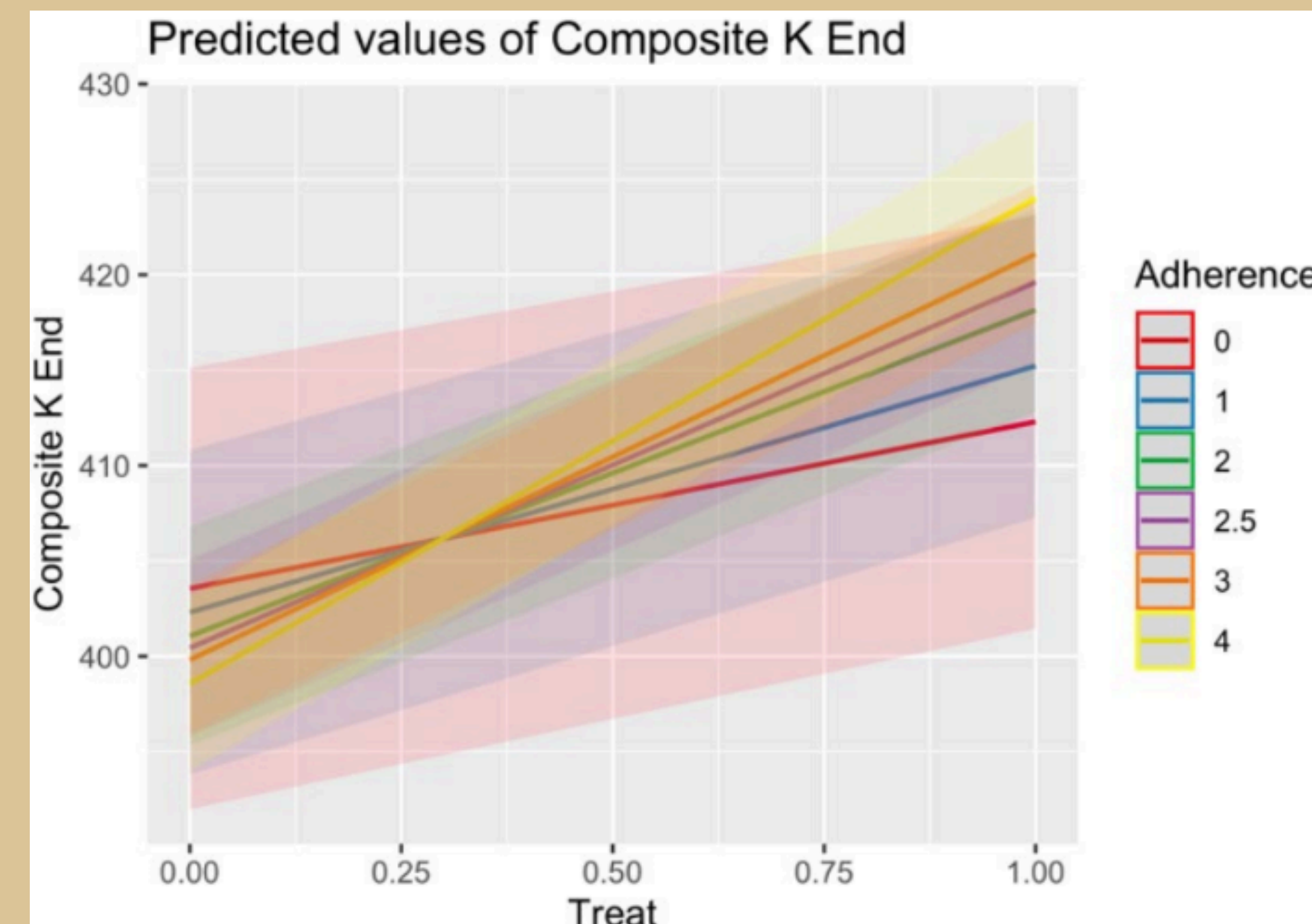


UFLI Implementation

Farhana Anisha, Kaea Charfauros and Denise Dennis

Introduction

- The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) developed UFLI Foundations, a phonics-based program that teaches foundational reading skills to K-2 students.
- UFLI has been successfully implemented in collaboration with various counties, leading to improvements in early literacy outcomes.
- Research shows that UFLI Foundations has significantly improved phonetic awareness and reading comprehension skills in young students.
- Despite its success, adapting the program to meet the diverse needs of different school districts and populations remains a challenge.
- This research aims to evaluate the impact of UFLI's county collaborations and explore how the program has evolved to better address literacy needs, with the goal of expanding its reach and effectiveness.



The graph shows that students whose teachers implemented UFLI with higher adherence levels had better end-of-year reading scores (Gage, 2023)

Methods

Data Analysis

Quantitative: Descriptive statistics measure improvements in phonetic skills and reading comprehension over time.
Qualitative: Thematic analysis identifies key themes related to UFLI's effectiveness, strengths, and challenges.

Procedures

Data Collection

- Student literacy performance data gathered through standardized assessments.
- Teacher interviews and surveys conducted to capture insights on UFLI implementation.
- Classroom observations performed to assess instructional practices.

Ethical Considerations

- All participants provided informed consent and were assured of confidentiality and voluntary participation.

Participants

Educators: Teachers and administrators implementing the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) Foundations program in participating districts.

Materials/Measures

Quantitative Measures: Standardized literacy assessments evaluating phonetic awareness and reading comprehension across multiple school years.

Qualitative Measures: Semi-structured interviews and teacher surveys assessing instructional experiences, program fidelity, and student progress.

Observations: Classroom observations measuring instructional delivery and student engagement during UFLI lessons.

Results

UFLI Steps

1. **Phonemic Awareness**
2. **Visual Drill**
3. **Auditory Drill**
4. **Blending Drill**
5. **New Concept**
6. **Word Work**
7. **Irregular Words**
8. **Connected Words**

UFLI Foundations follows an eight-step routine that reviews, introduces, and reinforces literacy concepts through structured lessons.

Preliminary Findings

- Interviews with educators and administrators show the research-practice partnership has enhanced UFLI implementation for diverse K-2 students.
- Teachers report improved phonetics and reading comprehension while noting areas for better educator support.
- Early quantitative analysis suggests UFLI improves literacy outcomes and allows for adaptations to ensure equitable learning.

Implications

- The strong correlation between high-fidelity implementation of the UFLI Foundations program and improved student reading outcomes underscores the necessity for comprehensive teacher training and support.
- Educational stakeholders should prioritize the adoption of structured, evidence-based reading programs like UFLI Foundations to enhance early literacy development.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of program adherence are essential to maximize the benefits of reading interventions and ensure consistent student progress.
- Resources and professional development focused on the science of reading can lead to sustainable improvements in literacy rates among early learners.

Sources

