Fast ForWord Home Learner Success Manual for Parents

Literacy: Spin Master
Fast ForWord Home Interventions for Parents

One of the very first things you can do to assist your child when they are experiencing difficulty with a particular exercise is to sit with them and watch and listen as they work. You can either use a Y-splitter so that you can listen in on your own headphones or you can remove the headphones for a short time so that you can hear what is going on. That way, you will be able to identify if your child is having difficulty understanding the goal of the exercise or if it is the content.

Check for Understanding

1. Ask your child to explain the exercise to you.
2. Do they understand the expectations of the exercise?
3. Do they understand how to use the mouse or keyboard?
4. Ask: “Can you tell me what this exercise wants you to do?”

Listen with Your Child

1. Listen in with your child (we do recommend a stereo audio splitter that enables you to plug two headsets into the computer).
2. Listen to what they hear.
3. Ask them to tell you what they hear.
4. Naming sounds can be helpful too.
5. Help them to understand the difference between sounds that are the same and those that are different.

The next step is to do the exercise with them. This can be achieved by using the Demo mode. These are the steps to work on the Demo. Keep in mind that no data will be recorded when using the Demo mode.

To use the demos:

1. Go to www.myscilearn.com
2. Choose student login on the bottom left of the box.
3. Choose school district: BrainPro OnDemand District
4. Sign in as usual.
5. When the page comes up with the assignment look at the tabs at the top and choose DEMOS (it will say you need your teacher’s permission, please let your consultant know you are going to do the Demos).
6. Choose the exercise that your child is struggling with and work together for a while until you are sure they are familiar with the task and have answered at least three in a row correctly.
7. Exit demos and allow them to work as usual.
Spin Master

Object: The learner will listen to a target syllable. Then they will watch and listen as the Spin Master’s two turntables each light up and play a syllable in turn. They will then click the turntable that plays the targeted syllable.

Listen in with your child as they complete this exercise. The syllable pair is shown on the screen and the student will listen to the following pairs: aba ada, ba da, be de, bi di, and va fa. After they listen to the trial, ask him or her what the target syllable was (the first syllable presented) and if this syllable came first or second when the pair was presented. Then, your child will select the appropriate record that produced the target syllable.

Another way to intervene with this exercise is to tell your child it is a matching exercise. They need to listen to the sound, then decide which of the two sounds that came after matched that first sound. For students who are having a hard time distinguishing the “b” or “d” sounds, this can take some of the stress out of the exercise as they are just listening for the matching sound.