



Program Highlights: Beginning Reading

Sylvan's Beginning Reading Program is designed to help your child become an independent and confident reader!

Our approach

Our program is rooted in scientific research and widely-accepted theories about teaching and learning.* It also aligns with national reading standards and state standards. We've used all this data to create a highly effective program.

Our program balances different skill sets — or “strands” — that are the building blocks of your child's early literacy skills. We cover each of these reading skill sets in every tutoring session, and your child learns how to apply them.

How it works

Our program follows a very intentional order of learning. It's based on an empirically-validated learning progression — which means it's proven to work! Our students begin with foundational skills; then, they move to more complex decoding and comprehension skills. They follow a progression of skills that's appropriate for their age and skill level.

Introduce your child to the building blocks of reading and get your child off to a wonderful start!

*Some of the research sources that guide our program include the National Reading Panel's 2000 report, *Teaching Children to Read*; the Alliance for Educational Excellence's *Reading Next* report (2006); and studies from the National Institute for Literacy, the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

Learning to read

We first teach your child the mechanics of learning how to read.

Skill set

What to expect

Alphabetics

Students learn to recognize and write uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.

Print concepts

We help students get comfortable with books! We teach young readers about the different parts of the book and how books are read.

Phonics and phonemic awareness

After learning to recognize letters, students learn to associate print letters with the sounds they make. By blending these sounds, they will soon be reading words! We provide clear instruction in skills such as letter-sound correspondence, vowel patterns and decoding multisyllabic words.

Reading to learn

Once your child has the basics in word recognition and decoding, we build your child's reading strategies and comprehension skills.

Skill set

What to expect

Vocabulary

Students learn how to decode words and how to recognize some words by sight (such as the words: of, is and the). They also work on strategies for how to define new words — such as using context clues and breaking words into affixes and roots.

Fluency

To apply decoding skills, students read out loud under the coaching and guidance of our expert teachers. Fluency is the key to building reading comprehension and being able to read at a good pace.

Comprehension

Our ultimate goal is reading for comprehension. Our teachers help students build the comprehension skills to understand the meaning behind what they are reading. We also help them make predictions about a story, connect text to their own experiences, and find the main ideas in a passage.

Learning through hands-on experiences

Research shows that hands-on activities and interactive lessons can really help engage younger children and enhance their learning. That's why our program includes:

- Lessons that adapt to your child's unique needs.
- Interactive videos and game-like lessons that reinforce key lessons — such as how to blend letter sounds to form words or how to draw a conclusion from a story illustration.
- Multi-sensory activities to keep your child focused and engaged, including iPad® activities, books and hands-on manipulatives.