



Program Highlights: Reading

Sylvan’s Reading Program for grades 1 - 6 is designed to help your child become a more confident and proficient reader — and ultimately, a better overall student!

A well-balanced approach

Our program is rooted in scientific research and widely-accepted theories about teaching and learning.* It’s also aligned to national reading standards and state standards. We’ve used all this data to create a well-balanced approach that will improve your child’s fluency, comprehension and reading competence.

Let’s strengthen your child’s reading skills, building confidence and curiosity along the way. You’ll love the progress at home and in school!

Areas of focus

Here are the focus areas we tailor to your child:

- **Phonics and phonemic awareness:** If your child needs support in sounding out new words or in the foundational skills in decoding, we provide clear instruction in skills such as letter-sound correspondence, vowel patterns and decoding multisyllabic words.
- **Vocabulary:** Students learn the vocabulary words they need to understand to complete their reading assignments at each level. They also learn strategies for how to define new words — such as using context clues and breaking words into affixes and roots.
- **Fluency:** To learn how 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 that are needed most for school (and beyond). For example, we ask them to summarize both fiction and nonfiction texts to show basic understanding. They also practice critical thinking skills, such as how to analyze a text’s structure and how to evaluate an author’s reasoning or persuasive techniques.

How it works

Our Reading 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 move to basic comprehension skills, and then gain confidence in more complex, higher-order thinking skills.

Here are the skills your child will progress through depending on his or her age and ability.

Skill	Examples
Phonics and decoding (if needed)	Long vowel patterns, consonant blends
Vocabulary strategies and word meaning	Synonyms and antonyms, multiple meaning words, context clues
Constructing meaning from text	Identifying facts and details, distinguishing fact from opinion, identifying sequence
Analyzing literary text	Literary forms, figurative language, story structure
Understanding an author’s craft	Author’s purpose, tone, text structure
Evaluating text	Analyzing persuasive techniques, evaluating an author’s reasoning

* 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).