



Program Highlights: Reading

Sylvan’s Reading Program for grades 7-12 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—and that will prepare your child for college and career.

Here are the focus areas we tailor to your child:

- **Vocabulary and Word Knowledge:** 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 learning Greek and Latin roots. Students analyze word parts (roots, prefixes, and suffixes) to help build their vocabularies, and also learn to define and use figurative language.
- **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 students 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. 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 skill sets your child will tackle at Sylvan:

| Skill | Examples |
|--|---|
| 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 |

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

*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).