

Spell to Write and Read Success Stories

Spell to Write and Read has amazing word of mouth testimonies from people teaching in a variety of settings (home, school), a variety of ages (young or old), a variety of ability levels (challenged learners to talented and gifted), and a variety of needs (English as a first language and English as a foreign language.) People can't resist telling their friends and teaching colleagues.

Mary wrote, "This is our third year using it with Katie (age 9 in third grade) and Thomas (age 6 in first grade). Both are doing well. I am sold on *Spell to Write and Read* and always look for opportunities to recommend it to my friends.

Jennifer wrote, "*Spell to Write and Read* is so incredibly helpful and has lifted away the 'I don't know' cloud that hung over our homeschool spelling. My boys are 12 and 14 and brag about the usefulness of your program. Spelling is now a subject we all look forward to and enjoy."

Floods of these types of letters endorse *Spell to Write and Read*. Some make general statements like, "*Spell to Write and Read* is THE best program out there for teaching a logical way of spelling and reading." Others give specific details behind their assessment. Some are just getting started. Others look back with a grateful heart for the solid foundation. Here is a small sampling from the pile grouped under the general headings: **Efficient, Economical, Effective.**

Efficient

Covers Complete Phonics in a Quick, Easy Manner

SWR is the most complete, sequential teaching method to my knowledge. It lays a solid foundation as soon as possible. It's not confusing. Instead of bogging children down in hopeless masses of rules and exceptions, 70 phonograms and as few as 29 rules keep within the 7% exception range. We can apply the thorough set of rules without feeling something is missing. --Teacher, OR

Surpasses Other Methods

As a public school teacher I studied several methods in depth. *Spell to Write and Read* is superior in theory, in research, and in national and personal results! --Kansas educator

Declutters

After using four other programs, I found what I was searching for in SWR. By decluttering my language arts approach, I can use my time to the best advantage. After ridding ourselves of words and phrase flash cards, workbooks, basal readers, and 95% of my games and gimmicks, my children settled down to rewarding and interesting study. We have freed up time to read living books.

Editor's note: This teacher went from homeschooling to teaching in a small private Christian academy. Her little school in PA entered statewide academic competition. Her students took all three top honors in spelling. Jean Evans is currently both an endorsed SWR instructor and a professor in a Baptist college in TN.

Seeds Solid Progress

With *Spell to Write and Read*, students can quickly grasp the essentials and apply them to any reading context. SWR efficiently explains why words are read or spelled in a particular way, as opposed to just memorizing each word. Previously I used textbooks with special print to cue the student. It slowly presents new sounds. Beginners had to be in the program quite a while before they had any reading competency for normal text. Students doing well in daily lessons would often flunk standardized tests. —Teacher, CA

Activates Weak Speller

My fourth grade son trailed a year and a half below grade level when we started. I began at the beginning and progressed step-by-step. Aaron liked it right away because he was actively involved by hearing, seeing, writing and saying. This multisensory approach is the best method. Usually reading instruction is fragmented. He is proud of the spelling log he is creating. We have covered over 500 words. He still shows a lot of interest in what has been his weakest subject. --Missionary to Africa

Presents Hows and Whys

My daughter reads far above grade level and my son associates sounds and the words they make. They are learning to reason as well as read. They know the whys of English and not just the hows.

Prepares the Student for “Real” Reading

Spell to Write and Read gives us a solid foundation for language as well as the freedom for the kids to read about what they are studying in other subjects! Instead of making our kids suffer through tons of graded, uninteresting material, we are giving them all the phonics tools upfront. She's not limited to reading a certain type of book or word. As she progresses in confidence and experience, she can pick up and read anything she wants! When I worked in K5 in college, our kids were reading. But you know what they read? The little word family stories, all carefully chosen and scripted. Not exactly real reading! Some programs make it sound like if you do it their way the kid will be reading in 1 day. Well you have to remember WHAT they're reading.

Eliminates Boring Basal Readers

Independence from a basal reader builds appreciation of literature and freedom from “gray” stories. The ability to think deductively and to write coherent and legible sentences and stories early in the year make reading a “living thing.”

I taught another program for six years in Christian schools and private tutoring. It presented only short vowels at first. This limits students to “easy” readers. The blending of consonants such as ‘cl’, ‘bl’, ‘gr’, to make a separate phonogram wasted time. Students usually sounded those on their own. Mixing blends and phonogram instruction created almost 150 separate sounds to learn. SWR teaches 70 basic ones. English is shown as orderly with definite patterns. This is the strongest foundation for teaching phonics I have discovered. --Educator, VA

Utilizes all Learning Styles

SWR plugs the gaps in the more common implicit language approaches. In “implicit” phonics a student is given little information but expected to infer sounds from patterns, rather than being taught

the sound/writing connection explicitly. After practice with some inconsistent rules and unreliable patterns, he is expected to recognize words he has never seen before and “read” them. This vague approach hinders many learners. SWR presents the tools explicitly (so it’s very clear) then teaches a student how to apply them to spelling and reading a core vocabulary. By the time a student has studied several of the lists, he’s been through many of the most frequently used words. He has practiced spelling these words and reading them fluently. Instead of spending his reading time struggling to identify the words (decoding), he can actually spend it reading! This is a huge difference that affects positively a student’s feelings about reading.

Originally, I thought it best to teach the sounds of letters in stages so as not to confuse nor slow down the memorizing. E.g., teaching only short vowel sounds, then start reading, and later coming back to long vowels. My son is now reading and since he knows all of the phonograms I don’t have to worry about him reading something outside of his primers that might confuse him. He likes to pick where and when he will read (e.g. street signs, envelope addresses, books) & what books he’ll read for fun. I can’t believe this method is almost a well kept secret in our nation.

Promotes Thinking

Syllabification is presented from the beginning. The *Spell to Write and Read* student “thinks to spell” rather than copy. Instead of needing books with controlled vocabulary (i.e. all short “a” words), which are often contrived or boring, SWR enables the student to read good literature.

Fills in Missing Gaps

Spell to Write and Read has changed our homeschool and filled in gaps in my own education. I have a masters degree in teaching English as a Second Language. I have studied language instruction extensively and I thought I knew how to teach. But once I began to homeschool my own children, I realized that I was teaching to my personal strengths. My oldest daughter, like me, could not spell, although she could read well. After trying many spelling programs, I bought SWR to deal with spelling. Then when my twin boys began to learn to read, I realized that they had very different learning styles and challenges. My sons are very literal and so my “glossing over” of phonics was inadequate. I taught phonics but it was not consistent and I realized that I did not truly understand most of the multi letter phonemes. As a reader I could simply intuit the word without knowing the various sounds for many of the multi letter phonemes, thus my own deficiency in spelling. My sons had struggled to learn to read without specific rules. So I began to use SWR with them as well. It is amazing. My daughters reading level has soared, her spelling has jumped many grade levels in only 9 months, my sons have overcome their difficulties and are now reading the Bible with understanding and they seem to spell at the same level they read. I am so thankful. --Denise

Unifies Language Arts

Spell to Write and Read integrates phonics, spelling, penmanship, reading, creative writing, and grammar into one program instead of separate subjects. Key spelling concepts are reviewed repeatedly for four or five years. Rather than holding back students until they master each phonogram or spelling rule thoroughly, we move ahead, keeping them excited while knowing that the same concepts will be specifically addressed again for further mastery. --WA Home Educator

Inspires Boy to Write for Fun

I would never go back to Brand X or Y. My 4th boy, who is 7, wrote a huge paragraph yesterday in

beautiful cursive just because he wanted to! He is a very normal 7 year old boy, but he is excelling with SWR. I wish I had used it with my first even though he read early and easily. --Doreen

Reverses Dyslexic Issues

SWR is perfect for dyslexia because we can very clearly define where the child is “at” and work forward from there with continual reinforcement. Since starting SWR a month ago, he’s made great improvements. The phonograms and rules seem logical and are easy to remember. --Dionne

Eradicates Sight Words and Most Rule Exceptions

I used reputable Christian curriculum to teach my daughter, but many rule exceptions and sight words had to be taught before she could begin to read. I tried Writing Road to Reading but found working with that book alone was confusing. Then I met Wanda Sanseri who personally trained under Mrs. Spalding. She also has a wonderful team of instructors all across the United States that she personally trained and endorsed. Her approach breathed new life into WRR for me. She has made some changes, without deviating from the basic program, which makes it more streamline and user friendly. She has created supplementary materials that have added excitement and variety. Besides teaching my daughter in this program, I have helped to set up this program and tutor the teachers in the school my husband administered. --Educator from Northern California

Adds Enjoyment to Learning and Helps Improve Penmanship

To best describe *Spell to Write and Read*, one word comes to mind and that is FUN! Michelle’s penmanship has improved with this method.

Appeals to All Levels and Learning Styles

People learn differently. The more senses we simultaneously utilize the better the concepts will be grasped by any type of learner. In this program the students say, hear, write and see the material, thus they involve four out of the five senses. (If we make fudge, as suggested when we teach “dge,” then all five senses are used.) --Kansas Parent

Reaches Multiple Ability Levels at the Same Time

Spell to Write and Read is designed so the teacher can tailor it for a one-on-one situation. It also works where many abilities are present at once. One teacher, using SWR for the very first time, could not divide his class into many small groups. The span of ability was huge but he taught them all together. To his surprise all the students progressed. His experience demonstrates how SWR challenges the most advanced students while stimulating students who are behind. On the initial diagnostic test, Gary could spell no words, Janell only two, and Karma eighteen. By the end of the year, the entire class improved at their own level.

-- The lowest student jumped 4.2 grades. On his first diagnostic test Gary could not spell any words correctly. Six months later, on an equivalent test, he scored at fourth grade level.

- Janell Ends Year at 3.7. In September Janell even misspelled her name as Janecvs. She only spelled two words correctly: run, top. Eight months later she properly spelled nineteen words including: hot, victim, convict, born, collect, dash, began, ice, book, last, stamp, night, belong, deep, spring, north, and yard.

- Karma Ends Year at 5.4. Karma did not get lost in the classroom scramble to bring up those lagging behind. In eight months this first grader, who began at an amazing 3.5, jumped almost two grade levels. She spelled twenty-nine words correctly on the final standardized test including: independent, entrance, patient, against, collect, request, employ, elaborate.

Works with All Ages from Toddlers to Teens (and beyond)

I am amazed at how fast my children are learning. Consequently I'm learning from them! I believe SWR fits every child. You can tailor it to meet your children's needs. Wanda's books are more how to teach English lessons, where many others are just "Here's your lesson for today." -- Debra

I taught this program to fifth grade in a Christian school and with my own girls now in first and second grades. I have also trained the mother of a kindergartner. This woman barely has a high school education and remembers far less, but she has successfully and with joy taught her daughter to read. SWR has even helped me in my own spelling. -- CA teacher

Benefits Two-year Old

Isaac with a vocabulary of about a dozen words, surprised us with his eagerness to learn the phonetic sounds (phonograms) of the English language right along with his older brothers. Within 4 weeks, he was able to recognize and attempt pronunciation of 20 out of 26 phonograms quite accurately. His vocabulary has begun to expand rapidly as he is using his new skills.

Causes Breakthrough for First Grader

My daughter in first grade could barely read or spell when we started *Spell to Write and Read*. She is voraciously reading now. She and her brother love the program. Mom loves the results. -- Laurie

Elevates Spelling Skills for Grade-school Students

My 8 year old son could only spell his name. He was reading at a 5th grade level but could not spell. Today I dictated sentences using the words in lists A and B and he wrote them out perfectly! He was so excited that he wanted to do More! This from the boy that hated to write anything.

With *Spell to Write and Read*, my fifth grader is now motivated! He's learning the logic and rules that govern spelling. It's no longer just memory work and guessing.

Revitalizes struggling 12-Year Old

I began this program with a twelve-year old coming out of the public school system. She originally tested in the 2.7 grade level. Within three months she brought that up to 4.5. SWR enabled me to explain and show a logical approach to spelling. The idea of learning all the phonograms and rules can sound like a major task, but most kids learn these rather quickly. I echo what I have heard many others say: I wish I had had this program years ago!

"I have been teaching for 20 years, and have a multiple subject and special ed teaching credentials and 3 years of training in the Slingerland method based on Orton-Gillingham's work. Your program is EXACTLY what I have been looking for for many years!"

Enlightens Teens

I just started SWR with our almost 18 yo son, 14 yo son and almost 13 yo daughter. In a short time I've become convinced this is THE best thing for teaching a logical way of spelling and reading.

Spell to Write and Read is not baby work. It doesn't look, feel or sound like baby work. I continue to read my daughters subject books to her and quite a bit of her math problems as well. I decided to begin SWR and at the same time not make a big deal out of reading things to her. Except for the teaching session of SWR I never required her to read anything. A couple of months went by and just when I was about to give up she started saying things like: "Mom, I know how to read that" or "OK Mom, it isn't like I can't make that sentence out." We aren't quite up to grade level, and because of the dyslexia she still struggles, but I don't know where we would be right now without SWR.

Remediates Adults

My husband told me that he had a lot of help when he was younger with many different programs and he never learned anything. He learned more from *Spell to Write and Read* in a matter of just a couple of weeks than all the years of the other programs combined. -- Donna

Works for ESL and Remedial Students

SWR helped me remediate our fourth grade daughter and my teenage nephew, and presently I am using it with great success to teach Chinese neighbors.

Improves Teacher Confidence

I had nine years teaching experience, but lacked confidence. In desperation I took this course in smoggy LA. During the training class, I realized much of my discouragement and disillusionment came from not knowing how to teach properly. Equipped with the tools I had needed all along, I confidently had the pleasure of teaching little ones to read. I am full of praise!

Economical

Makes a Good Investment

I wasted several hundreds of dollars on various spelling programs over eight years. None of them worked for my seventh grade daughter. When I first heard of *Spell to Write and Read*, I didn't want to shell out another hundred for yet another program. Money is tight for us and it was Christmas time. After careful research, I took the plunge and purchased the kit. I do not plan to buy any other program in the future. SWR not only has helped my girls to learn, but it has given me the confidence to teach. It is well worth the investment!

Saves Time and Money

Brand X gimmicky programs are costly. *Spell to Write and Read*, sticks to essentials. SWR is the absolute best product for mastering the spelling of the English language I have ever seen or used. (I went through about 8 other programs before switching.) SWR is more complete! Other programs I found have many more exceptions for the child to remember.

Provides Great Value

We really love the curriculum. We hardly spent any time on it and our just turned six year old is reading, writing and spelling AND enjoying it. This wonderful program is a great value!

Uses Less Money for Better Results

I think I own every phonics program under the sun, except Sing Spell Read and Write. I drew the line at that one because I had already spent so much \$ on others. We searched, we bought, we tried, we studied. Wanda's program was the only one that worked for us.

My daughter is severely dyslexic. In one year of using Wanda's program she came up 3 and 4 grade levels in her reading scores on achievement tests. Keep in mind she was not reading before this so those grades were low. She read *Charlotte's Web* cover to cover in two days. I literally cried. A good phonics programs will also teach how to spell for a lifetime. I highly recommend this method, and if someone has the opportunity, I also recommend the seminar.

You'll have to buy your own materials. I won't part with mine. However, if anyone wants to buy a used copy of *Hooked on Phonics* cheap

Effective

Produced Dramatic Improvement in Just One Month

I tried lots of popular easy programs. SWR is more teacher intensive but gives dramatic results. My older daughter jumped six months in spelling mastery in a month. This 8 year old that had stayed at first grade reading level and had atrocious spelling. Nothing before helped spelling improve.

My younger daughter, who is just starting out, is learning big words like "school" in first grade and her reading has taken off. After doing this only 5 weeks, she can figure out words by knowing the rules and phonograms. My 2 year old goes around spouting phonograms. I have also learned a ton in one month and now understand more of how the English language works. --Krista

Worked Where Other Methods Failed

I've been using SWR for a few years. It's the only program that helped my oldest learn how to spell.

Captivated High Achievers

Six year old Katie is reading on her own books like *Little House on the Prairie*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and the Narnia series, and rarely misses any words on spelling quizzes. She is consistently scoring high on diagnostic tests: 4.3 in October, 7.5 in December. David, now six, reads from his KJV Bible, encyclopedias, and children's books of all sorts.

Added Excitement and Success

The last two years, as a classroom teacher, I used a first grade, whole language program which was very lax in its approach to phonic skills. The students were lost with no tools for decoding new or foreign words. This year I added *Spell to Write and Read* to the required curriculum. Kids started

getting excited about spelling and didn't grumble when I would tell them to get out their spelling logs. Their confidence in spelling spilled over into their other writing/reading activities. Every student gained anywhere from 6 months to 2 years in reading abilities over their scores last year. In the past my classes gained only 2 months to 1 year in end-of-the year testing. --Teacher from CA

Exceeded Expectations

I began using *Spell to Write and Read* over a year ago. My son, David, now six, reads from his KJV Bible, encyclopedias, and children's books of all sorts. Recently, I had a sore throat and he read the next chapter from *The Long Winter* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. My daughter, Laura, 5 reads nearly as well as her brother and frequently reads books to her younger sister. They both spell well above their grade levels. Six year old David scored at 3.9 and five year old Laura at 2.9. --NY Home Educator

Motivated the Reluctant

I first used Brand X. My son Andy answered so few problems in the Iowa Basic Skills test for first grade that they did not score the reading subtests. Since using *Spell to Write and Read* he has shown dramatic improvement. He is reading better and has started enjoying lessons. I have also started teaching the phonograms to my fifth grade daughter. At first she was tearful about learning the same material as her second grade brother. Now she also participates with enthusiasm.

Improved Scores in Days

In only 37 days, my ten year old daughter's spelling level jumped from 6.0 to 8.0 and my nine year old daughter increased from 2.5 to 3.5. Initially my seven year old son missed every word on the test. (He spelled can as kan, now as naw, good as grd, all as orl, and make as mac.) I hadn't realized how little he was taught in public school. With SWR, in 86 days he could spell at a 2.2 level!

Boosted Special Needs Students

I had been told that my learning disabled child would never be able to learn to read. I introduced Wanda's materials anyway when she was young. She needed lots of loving repetition. At sixteen years old, my Downs Syndrome daughter's word attack skills tested at 12.8. Her reading level is consistently between 6th & 7th grade! We've been teaching our eight-year old very "low key" for over a year now. She is reading and writing in her spelling log. She also reads easy books and sounds out signs and words she sees along the way!

Raised Scores Quickly

When I started using *Spell to Write and Read* my sons ages 9 and 11 scored 1.3 on the evaluation spelling test. In five months their spelling score went to 3.1/3.3. I've gone through four other reading programs and this is the only thing that really helped. --OR Home Educator

I began teaching our six year old son. He took off. Tips in the program helped keep his left handed brother from developing bad writing habits. He has neat penmanship and is often complimented on it. A third son does not find learning as easy or as welcome. With more repetition, time, and creativity we've received the same wonderful results with him. The beauty of *Spell to Write and Read* is seeing the phonograms, spelling rules, and notebook work come together to give a child a wonderful, concise, and logical hands-on-mastery of the English language. --from PA

I began SWR in a multi-grade full-day school classroom (ages 7 to 15). I lacked any prior phonics experience and relied totally on the step-by-step instructions provided. The student success was astounding! Most improved spelling 2-3 grade levels in six months! I took a SWR seminar the following September. I had been doing it right, with just a few insignificant misinterpretations. The easy to use step-by-step instructions ensured our success when followed. --from the West Coast

Our 8 yr. old son went through two different programs without learning to read. He enjoyed the little stories and jingles that went with each sound, but we couldn't seem to get any further. It was scary to try something new, but after reading through the BHI materials and listening to the phonogram CD I began to understand things I never had before and gained confidence to get started. After twelve weeks, Aaron is reading, spelling, and writing, and really enjoying himself. His brother Philip, age 6, is only a half step behind him. --from the East Coast

Lifted Scores for Latino Students

In less than six months my students, 80% of whom were Hispanic, increased between 7 and 27 months. The entire class jumped an average of 20 months. -- Sonia Biltz

Progressed Rapidly

With SWR, students can quickly grasp the essentials and apply them to any reading context. *Spell to Write and Read* efficiently explains why words are read or spelled in a particular way, as opposed to just memorizing or learning each word. Previously I used textbooks with special print to cue the student. It slowly presents new sounds. Beginners had to be in the program quite a while before they had any reading competency for normal text. Students doing well in daily lessons would often flunk standardized tests. — School Teacher, CA

Curbs and Overcomes Dyslexia

Peter is six. Though we have struggled with some letter and word reversals, *Spell to Write and Read* has kept these in check. He reads everything and is comfortable at spelling. In recent SAT tests he scored in the 98th percentile.

Kirsten is eight and a half years old and in the third grade. Before learning this system she could not read past *Go Dog Go*. Now she reads *The Chronicles of Narnia!* Her writing skills are following suit. She rarely misspells words in applied writing. -- home educator

My oldest son is dyslexic and this is how I came to teach this curriculum. My son can read at the adult level today, yet I can recall a time when he threw a book across the room in frustration. *Spell to Write and Read* helped him to learn the language when other methods did not. -- GA mom

Thrills Parent and Child

My daughter and I enjoy this simple, logical program. We are thrilled that she is reading and progressing so quickly. --Canadian Parent

Provided Long Term Success

It seems like so long ago when I attended your seminar to help Joseph learn to read. He'll be off to college next year. He got a 1350 on his SAT which helps with a merit scholarship. -- VAR

REVIEWS

Overcoming Reading and Spelling Hurdles

My entire homeschooling experience with my children has been completely transformed, thanks to *Spell to Write and Read!* This program was recommended to me by a friend at JUST the right time for me to help my oldest over a reading and spelling hurdle and teach my youngest to read with THE best possible method in kindergarten. And now, after three years of using this program, I cannot say enough phenomenal things about SWR!!

I used to think my oldest was a good speller in 1st and 2nd grades as she tested multiple grade levels ahead. Somewhere in the middle of 3rd grade she 'hit a wall' and suddenly her spelling became atrocious! I was so concerned and not really sure how to help her, since I was using what I THOUGHT was an excellent phonics and spelling program. I was scared of my son who was a rising kindergartener and worried that I might create the same struggles in him! Right at that time I was told about *Spell to Write and Read* and, as a diehard researcher, I settled in to find out more about this little known program. I was blown away by what I read about it. The majority of the reviews on SWR were over-the-top positive. Everyone said if I took the time to understand this program that my children would excel.

I enrolled in a Basic Training seminar on SWR and have never looked back!! This program is AFFORDABLE and thorough! I came to realize that my daughter was not a good speller, but a good memorizer and her 'memory tank' was simply full. She had reached her memory quota. She did not have the tools to decode words - hear all the sounds in a word - and then put them back together again for spelling. I spent the first year de-programming all the phony rules I had put in her (2 vowels go walking, the first one does the talking only works 27% of the time - - what a bogus rule when almost 75% of the time it is an exception!!!) and instead taught her the 70 phonograms with ALL their sounds and the 28 spelling rules we have in English! We worked hard that first year and she BLOSSOMED! My Kindergartener was spelling on a 3rd grade level by the end of K. This program has given us the most astounding tools to sound out complex words for reading and for spelling. MY spelling has improved, not just my children's. I was raised in public school on whole language principles and phony phonics. Now I have received the spelling education I SHOULD have received in school as I have taught my own children! My youngest is multiple grade levels ahead of his 2nd grade year and my 6th grader just tested post high school. That wall she hit?? It's GONE!!

-- Renee Harris, TN

I HIGHLY recommend this program if you are willing to put in the little bit of extra time it takes to figure it out. There are multiple resources available to help you. I recommend going to one of the training seminars which are extremely helpful, you will walk away 100% confident that you can DO this and that this program is BRILLIANT! There were moms in my training who had been homeschooling for 20+ years and were blown away by the knowledge they received and WISHED they would have had this program years ago!

Yes, it is a bit tricky at first, but this program basically takes all of the guess work out of the English language and is extremely comprehensive, giving your child a solid foundation. I cannot be happier with this program! I feel like it has saved our family a lot of money by combining skills. I no longer need a separate handwriting program, reading program, and I will save tons of money on primary readers as many children soar in reading and end up using the Bible as their beginning reader. LOVE IT!!