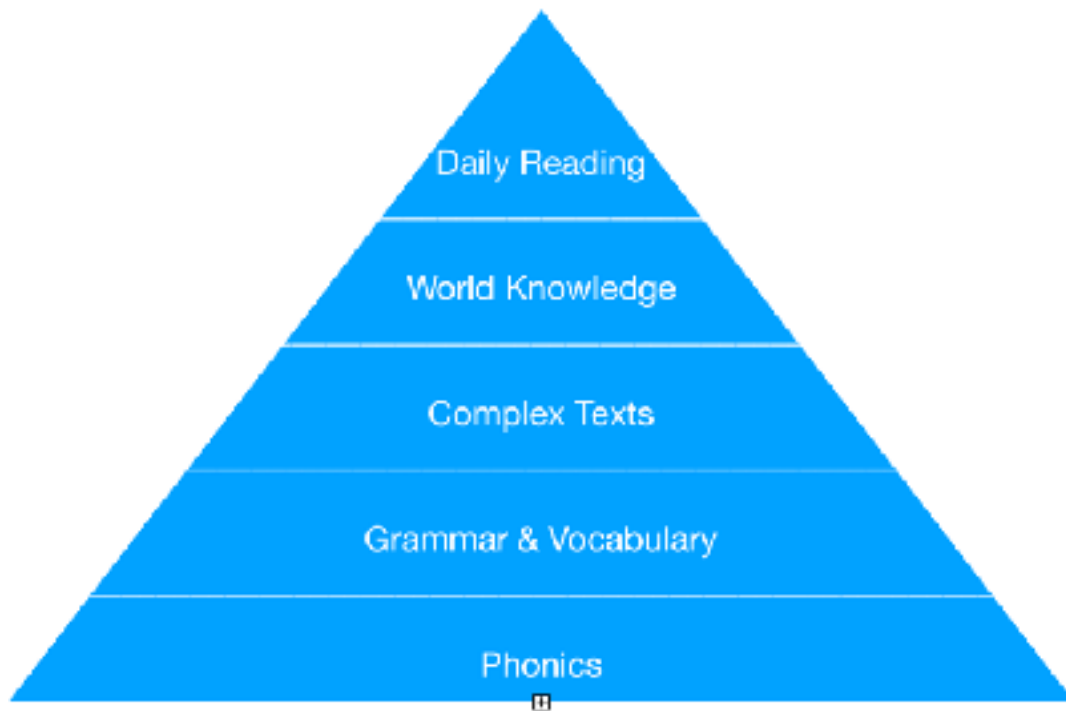


ScholarSkills Presents

**S**pecialized **T**raining for **A**ccelerated **R**eading **S**kills



Sentence-Smart™ for S.T.A.R.S.

**A selective, accelerated reading skills program for grades 2-4**

**Students will learn the skills they need to understand everything they read.**

 **Better grades in school**

 **Higher scores on tests**

 **Admission to Top Schools**

## **How does Sentence-Smart™ help children to improve their reading, reasoning, and writing skills?**

Students will improve their reading, reasoning, and writing skills by studying Latin and Greek word parts and analyzing sentences, paragraphs, and complex texts. They will also learn how to construct and combine sentences to express themselves clearly and accurately.

Sentence-Smart™ teaches students how to identify the parts of words and the parts that words play in sentences. It helps students to develop an analytical view of words and sentences so that they are able to understand what words mean and the roles that words play to create meaning in sentences. Sentence-Smart's™ combination of texts, color-coded charts, and word part cards helps students to think, talk, and write intelligently about words and the logical relationships that writers create to communicate their ideas.

Since reading comprehension is the art of finding and following the connections within and between sentences, sentence comprehension is the key to reading comprehension.

Sentences are the building blocks of texts, and words are the building blocks of sentences.

When students understand the meanings of words and the way words create meaning, then they can read, reason, and write more effectively. And as their sentence intelligence grows, students are able to read and respond to complex texts across a variety of genres.

## **What will your children learn in their Sentence-Smart™ tutorials?**

In Sentence-Smart™, students will learn three inter-related skills that will help them become more confident and effective readers, writers, and speakers:

### 1. Vocabulary Acquisition:

Students will become word-smart by using prefixes, roots, and context clues to decode complex words.

### 2. Syntax (Sentence Structure)

Students will learn how to analyze and understand sentences by recognizing the grammatical role that each word and group of words is playing in the sentence.

### 3. Sentence and paragraph creation

Students will learn how to use their knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure to write clear, concise sentences and paragraphs. Students will also learn how to use syntactic analysis and sentence combination skills to forge a greater understanding of how writers achieve coherency within and between sentences.

## **How to help your kids to improve their reading skills**

Skillful reading is the key to excellence in all areas of school and life. Skillful readers use their knowledge of words, sentence structure, and specific subject areas to comprehend complex texts. To fully comprehend complex texts, students need an expansive vocabulary, an analytical understanding of the logical relationships between and within sentences, and a comprehensive understanding of areas such as history, literature, and current events. In short, a skillful reader has a profound and growing knowledge about the world and about words.

## **How do children become skillful readers?**

Phonics is the foundation of all reading skills because it is the knowledge of the sounds that letters make. When students know the sounds that letters make, they are able to decode new words by “sounding them out”. Students who don’t have a strong phonetic foundation rely on memorizing sight words and have a very difficult time decoding new words. Phonics leads to fluency, and fluency precedes comprehension. Students cannot comprehend what they are reading if their minds are struggling with recognizing and decoding words.

After building a strong phonetic foundation, students need to develop an analytical view of words and sentences by studying morphology, etymology, and syntax. Morphology is the study of the structure of words, and etymology is the study of the origins of words. When students learn words by studying their structures and origins, they develop the ability to decode new words and add them to their vocabulary quickly and more effectively. Syntax (or grammar) is the study of the rules which govern how words and groups of words can be arranged to communicate complete, coherent sentences. Grammar is the language about language, and students cannot think and talk about language effectively until they understand the rules that govern its construction. When students understand the parts of speech and the parts of sentences, they are much more capable of creating and understanding written texts. Phonics, vocabulary, and grammar are, therefore, the three keys to comprehension.

# Skilled Readers

Reflect

Evaluate

Articulate &

Discover

## About our Director

Rev. Brian Vieira is a graduate of NYC's prestigious Stuyvesant H.S., and an alumnus of Emory University and Brooklyn College's Graduate Division where he earned his masters degree in American History.

An award-winning state certified Master Teacher with over 25 years of academic experience, Mr. Vieira taught American History in high school for 14 years. He was awarded "Students' Choice Teacher of the Year" at Wingate H.S. in Brooklyn, N.Y for his passionate commitment to helping underprivileged, inner-city youth to excel. His students consistently scored far above city and state norms on the NYS American History Regents Exams.

In 2001, Rev. Vieira established his own state-certified school to assist students at smaller teacher-student ratios. He also established ScholarSkills Learning Center as an after-school program to help students to master the foundations for excellence in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

He is currently the President of ScholarSkills Learning Center which assists students, parents, and teachers in their quest for excellence. ScholarSkills offers direct tutoring to students, guidance counseling to parents, developmental curriculum to schools, and professional development workshops for teachers in English Language Arts, American History, and the implementation of civics education.

Rev. Vieira is the author of H.O.T.-DOCS (Higher Ordered Thinking Through Documents) which helps teachers and parent-educators to teach students the founding principles through the founding documents. He is also the author of the ELA Sentence-Smart Grammar Curriculum, and the Word-Parts for Word-Smarts Vocabulary Acquisition Curriculum which helps students to learn vocabulary interactively through morphology and etymology.

## Testimonials

“Our son had been in promotion in doubt status for some time until I took him to ScholarSkills™. Within just a few weeks he had made great progress and his teachers kept telling me how impressed they were. He actually started to show other kids in school how to do math problems more effectively just like the way they were teaching him in ScholarSkills. He is doing really well now and we thank God and the staff at ScholarSkills™.” - **Minister Diana Smallwood**

“I would recommend ScholarSkills™ because each student is provided with an individualized, diagnostic approach to learning which provides for instruction that supports intervention as well as acceleration. ScholarSkills™ faculty have high expectations for all students. Students' needs are continuously addressed while their strengths are continuously challenged. They build progress and success one student at a time.” - **Barbara Sanders, Retired Principal**

### **My daughter's focus and appreciation of learning drastically improved within one month**

"My daughter Drew joined ScholarSkills in March 2017, and within one month her focus and appreciation of learning drastically improved. Rev. Vieira and his team were able to quickly assess the foundational skills she needed to succeed, and used that to create and implement tailored lesson plans. He worked alongside my husband and I to ensure that we understood how Drew learned best, and helped us gain better insight about her areas of strength and improvement. It is clear that Rev. Vieira is both knowledgeable and dedicated. Drew is happy, and so are we!" -The McKessey Family

Dionne R.

### **ScholarSkills is amazing and enlightening**

I would recommend ScholarSkills because it provides an enjoyable learning environment that covers useful and relevant information which builds confidence in children. My children are excited about learning again. They are provided with the knowledge and understanding and rationale behind what they are learning. Mr. Vieira provides a safe, open learning environment where the children are not afraid to express their thoughts even if they may not have the right answers. He praises them which builds confidence and makes them want to try harder.

Marilyn F.

### **Greater confidence**

I have seen a great change in my daughter's educational development. She has a much greater sense of confidence.

Bianca R.

**Thanks for equipping my daughter with tools to succeed**

With the help of ScholarSkills my daughter passed the algebra regents. I appreciate all of your help and forward to having her work with you in the future. Thank you for equipping her with the tools to succeed in both math & ELA. FYI-on that HS placement test she scored 100 on the English & missed 1 question on the math

Andrea B.

**My son did well on the ISEE**

I was told about Rev Vieira and ScholarSkills through one of my friends. I scheduled an appointment with Rev. Vieira and immediately knew that his style of teaching was exactly what my son needed to do well on the ISEE EXAMS. We had a short time to work with but after my son sat through a test for a few minutes I could immediately tell his strengths and weaknesses. Rev Vieira's unorthodox style of teaching made my son want to go to tutoring and got him excited about each class.

Sharon A.

**ScholarSkills is the best decision I ever made**

Placing my son in the tutorial program at ScholarSkills has been the best decision ever. Pastor Vieira and his staff provide a cohesive learning environment where every child can be fostered and learn effectively. My son actually loves it there and thanks everyone who has played a role in his learning. I've seen my son improve his math and grammar skills and master having a good approach to learning.

