

# SPRIG READING AND ASCEND COURSE CATALOGUE

2026-2027





## ABOUT SPRIG LEARNING

At Sprig Learning we believe that EVERY child deserves a fair shot at success. Our holistic and inclusive early years programs combine a clever use of technology with classroom resources and hands-on activities that are easily integrated into day-to-day routines and lesson plans.



## ABOUT SPRIG READING

Sprig Reading is a digital tool for tracking and monitoring early reading progress, enhancing any evidence-based program. Unlike traditional progress monitoring tools, teachers regularly track student progress on over 200 reading skills and 220 vocabulary words using our intuitive Circle Charts. Effective in whole group, small group, and individual intervention settings, it supports differentiated instruction to ensure every child masters the foundational skills needed to read at grade-level.

In diverse classrooms, with students of varying abilities and backgrounds, Sprig Reading has proven to profoundly impact each child's reading journey. Offering a schoolwide approach, Sprig Reading brings together teachers, literacy coaches, psychologists, and other specialists to work as a cohesive team, continuously monitoring progress and planning interventions. Sprig Reading bridges the gap between traditional benchmark assessments, screeners, and other ad hoc tracking methods, ensuring every child receives the consistent support they need to learn to read.

Learn more about Sprig Reading at [www.spriglearning.com/sprig-reading](http://www.spriglearning.com/sprig-reading)

## ABOUT ASCEND SMARTER INTERVENTION

[Ascend SMARTER Intervention](#) helps students reach their highest potential by providing research-based academic support for schools and educators. Led by Corey Pollard, they are a team of educational therapists with backgrounds in research, psychology, special education, and general education.

Sometimes all it takes is a few new strategies to make a massive shift in student engagement and outcomes. Sprig Learning is proud to offer the Ascend catalogue of Professional Development courses designed to improve literacy instruction and student outcomes. Their programs are grounded in evidence-based practices, particularly the Science of Reading (SOR), and cater to educators across roles such as teachers, interventionists, special education professionals, and speech-language pathologists. Packaged courses from the catalogue, with set topic, fixed content, and duration, are instructor-led and can be delivered in remote-virtual, or in-person formats. Custom courses may be quoted upon request.

## WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF READING?

**Quick Answer:** It's an ever-expanding collection of information provided by researchers in the field outlining how we should teach students to read.

**Longer Answer:** The science of reading is a theoretical model which encompasses a comprehensive collection of research completed over many years by experts in the fields of education, psychology, neuroscience, language development, and more.

The collective body of evidence from the research, the Science of Reading, helps us to understand how the brain develops literacy skills, where breakdowns in language and literacy development may occur, and how best to support students using approaches validated by the research.

## ABOUT COREY POLLARD

**Executive Director & Founder, Ascend SMARTER Intervention**

With a background in research and clinical psychology, Corey brings an analytical and data-driven lens to educator training, and direct student support. While earning a BS in Cognitive Psychology from Colorado State University and an MS in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University – Maryland, Corey has conducted academic research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and the University of Denver. She also has led 1:1 and small group intervention in clinical settings at the Children's Hospital Colorado, and in her work with Ascend since 2015. Corey is an expert in the practical classroom application of research-backed reading best practices. She is a published author, sought after speaker, and absolutely passionate about your students' success!

# SPRIG READING AND ASCEND COURSE CATALOGUE

2026-2027



---

## COURSE LIST

1: Introduction to The Science of Reading Strategies .....	5
2: SOR-Based Lesson Planning for the Classroom Setting .....	6
3: SOR-Based Lesson Planning for the Intervention Setting .....	7
4: Phonological Awareness – How PA Skills Support Reading & Writing ..	8
5: Phonics Instruction to Promote Generalization & Retention .....	9
6: Strategies to Incorporate Vocabulary Instruction Into Your Lessons .....	10
7: It's More than Reading Fast – How to Develop Reading Fluency .....	11
8: Is it Possible to Teach Comprehension Explicitly? .....	12
9: How the Science of Reading Informs Writing Instruction .....	13
10: Executive Functioning: The Hidden Foundation of Literacy .....	14
11: Understanding Learning Profiles to Differentiate Instruction .....	15

---

# Introduction to The Science of Reading Strategies

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 4 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

This dynamic and interactive training offers educators across all content areas a foundational understanding of the Science of Reading (SOR), a research-based approach that informs how students learn to read and write. Designed for teachers, interventionists, and school leaders, this training equips participants with the essential knowledge and strategies to implement evidence-based reading and writing practices in their instruction.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE TRAINING INCLUDE:

- **Understanding the Science of Reading:** Explore the key research and cognitive principles behind how the brain learns to read, and how these insights inform best practices in literacy instruction across all grade levels and subjects.
- **Core Reading Skills:** Learn the five essential components of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension—and how they interconnect to support students' literacy development.
- **Evidence-Based Instructional Strategies:** Gain practical, research-backed strategies to address diverse literacy needs, from early readers to struggling adolescents, ensuring all students build strong reading and writing foundations.
- **Cross-Content Application:** Discover how to integrate reading and writing instruction into various content areas (e.g., math, science, social studies) to promote literacy skills while teaching subject matter content.
- **Differentiation and Intervention:** Learn how to tailor reading and writing instruction to meet the needs of students at different proficiency levels, including strategies for interventions with struggling readers.

By the end of this training, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the science behind reading acquisition, along with actionable tools and activities to help students become proficient, confident readers and writers across all academic disciplines.

# SOR-Based Lesson Planning for the Classroom Setting

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Empower your literacy instruction with a lesson-planning framework that aligns with the Science of Reading (SOR) principles. In this session, classroom teachers will discover how to seamlessly incorporate SOR-based strategies into their literacy blocks, helping students build the foundational skills needed for reading success.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Learn how to design daily literacy lessons that incorporate key SOR components, such as phonics, phonological awareness, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.
- Explore a flexible lesson-planning framework that ensures each part of the literacy block is purposeful and data-driven.
- Discover practical strategies to engage all learners, from struggling readers to advanced students, while fostering a literacy-rich environment.
- Gain access to planning templates and resources that can be immediately applied to your current literacy instruction.

By the end of this session, you'll have the tools and knowledge to create effective, SOR-aligned lessons that support the diverse needs of your students, ensuring they make meaningful progress in reading and writing.

# SOR-Based Lesson Planning for the Intervention Setting

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Designing targeted, effective lessons for students in intervention settings requires a structured, research-backed approach. In this dynamic session, interventionists, special educators, and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) will learn how to create Science of Reading (SOR)-aligned lesson plans tailored to the unique needs of students in one-on-one or small group settings.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Gain a deep understanding of how to apply SOR principles to intervention, focusing on key areas such as phonics, phonological awareness, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.
- Learn how to structure sessions that meet individual students' specific literacy needs, ensuring focused, data-driven instruction.
- Explore strategies for engaging students in intervention settings, helping them to make meaningful progress through multisensory activities and evidence-based practices.
- Walk away with practical tools and lesson planning templates that can be immediately applied in your small group or 1:1 sessions.

By the end of this session, you'll have the knowledge and resources to design effective, SOR-aligned lessons that accelerate student progress, whether you're working with struggling readers, students with learning differences, or those in special education settings.

# Phonological Awareness – How PA Skills Support Reading & Writing

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Phonological awareness (PA) is a critical literacy skill, laying the essential groundwork for both reading and writing success. In this informative and practical session, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how phonological awareness skills—such as identifying sounds, syllables, and phonemes—play a critical role in developing strong literacy foundations for all students.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Explore the connection between phonological awareness and literacy, and how early PA skills directly impact students' ability to decode, spell, and write effectively.
- Discover actionable strategies for integrating PA instruction seamlessly into your existing lessons and across various content areas.
- Learn practical techniques for teaching PA in ways that engage all learners, including struggling readers, English language learners (ELL), and those needing additional literacy support.
- Gain insights into how to build PA skills through fun, interactive, and multi-sensory activities that can be implemented immediately in your instruction.

By the end of this session, you'll be equipped with a set of tools and strategies to strengthen your students' phonological awareness, providing a solid foundation for reading and writing success.

# Phonics Instruction to Promote Generalization & Retention

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Help your students break free from the cycle of learning and forgetting by providing phonics instruction that truly sticks. In this session, you'll explore proven instructional strategies designed to promote not only the mastery of phonics skills but also the generalization and retention of those skills across reading tasks.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Learn strategies for teaching phonics in a way that ensures students can apply their skills to new words and contexts, fostering deeper understanding and greater independence in reading.
- Discover actionable strategies to support struggling readers, including multisensory techniques, repetition with variation, and meaningful practice activities.
- Gain insights into how to reinforce phonics skills to promote long-term retention, ensuring students don't just memorize but internalize key concepts.
- Leave with practical tools and methods you can begin implementing immediately to boost the success of your struggling readers.

By the end of this session, you'll be equipped with a toolkit of phonics strategies that go beyond the basics, helping your students retain what they've learned and apply their skills across different reading experiences.

# Strategies to Incorporate Vocabulary Instruction Into Your Lessons

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Use vocabulary to deepen your students' comprehension and ensure their long-term academic success. In this hands-on, interactive session, you'll discover practical and effective strategies to seamlessly integrate vocabulary instruction into your existing lessons—regardless of the subject area. Word recognition alone won't help students if they can't grasp the meaning behind the words they read. Move beyond rote memorization of definitions and provide students with tools to truly understand, retain, and use new words in meaningful contexts.

## THROUGH A VARIETY OF INNOVATIVE APPROACHES, YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO:

- Introduce and reinforce vocabulary in ways that promote deeper comprehension.
- Design lessons that encourage students to make connections between new and familiar words.
- Implement vocabulary-building activities that engage diverse learners and meet different learning styles.
- Create an environment where students can confidently apply vocabulary across multiple disciplines.

By the end of this training, you'll leave with ready-to-use techniques that will transform your vocabulary instruction and enhance student learning across context areas.

# It's More than Reading Fast – How to Develop Reading Fluency

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Reading fluency is about much more than just speed and accuracy. In this engaging and interactive session, participants will uncover the four forgotten fluency skills that are crucial for students' reading development. You'll explore how fluency encompasses not only reading quickly and correctly but also reading with proper expression, punctuation, self-monitoring, and phrasing.

## THIS TRAINING WILL PROVIDE:

- An in-depth look at the four key components of fluency: accuracy, pace, prosody, and comprehension.
- Practical, classroom-ready strategies to help students develop these essential skills.
- Techniques for assessing and supporting students at various fluency levels, ensuring all learners can achieve success.
- Ways to create a fluency-rich environment that fosters a love for reading and promotes lifelong literacy.

By the end of this session, you'll have a toolkit of strategies to build and strengthen your students' reading fluency, transforming them into confident, expressive readers who not only read well but also understand what they're reading.

# Is it Possible to Teach Comprehension Explicitly?

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

For years, the idea that comprehension couldn't be taught explicitly was widely accepted, but research and experience suggest otherwise. In this transformative session, you'll explore the 5 Levels of Cognitive Processing that directly impact students' comprehension. Learn how to effectively teach comprehension skills in a way that engages students across all content areas.

## THIS TRAINING WILL EMPOWER YOU TO:

- Understand how cognitive processing influences comprehension and how to target these areas in your instruction.
- Discover practical strategies to explicitly teach comprehension, helping students make meaning from texts, whether in math, science, social studies, or language arts.
- Implement hands-on activities and techniques to improve comprehension, allowing students to move from simple recall to deep understanding.
- Develop and incorporate comprehension-focused lessons that foster critical thinking and enhance overall student learning.

By the end of this session, you'll walk away with actionable strategies to unlock deeper comprehension for all your students, regardless of their reading abilities or content focus.

# How the Science of Reading Informs Writing Instruction

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Discover how the principles of the Science of Reading (SOR) not only transform reading instruction but also serve as a powerful foundation for effective writing instruction. In this engaging session, you'll learn actionable strategies to seamlessly integrate SOR-based writing techniques into your literacy lessons, helping students become stronger writers from the ground up.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE:

- The neurological processors involved in spelling, sentence writing, and paragraph development, and how they align with the Science of Reading.
- How to leverage these cognitive processes to support students in organizing their thoughts, constructing coherent sentences, and writing meaningful texts.
- Practical, classroom-ready strategies that can be implemented immediately to support spelling, sentence formation, and paragraph structure.
- Techniques for building students' confidence as writers while reinforcing their reading skills.

By the end of this training, you will leave with a toolkit of simple yet powerful strategies that bridge the gap between reading and writing, helping your students become more proficient and thoughtful writers across all content areas.

# Executive Functioning: The Hidden Foundation of Literacy

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Recent research from the Science of Reading (SOR) reveals that executive functioning (EF) skills are essential to literacy development—yet they often remain overlooked in traditional instruction. In this eye-opening session, you will uncover how executive functioning serves as the hidden foundation for reading and writing success.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Gain a clear understanding of what executive functioning is and why it is critical to literacy development.
- Explore the 5-part framework that addresses key EF skills and how they directly impact students' ability to decode, comprehend, and write effectively.
- Learn practical strategies for embedding EF instruction into your daily literacy lessons, supporting students in developing both literacy and essential life skills.
- Walk away with simple, ready-to-implement techniques to help students strengthen their executive functioning while boosting their reading comprehension and writing abilities.

By the end of this session, you'll be equipped to not only teach literacy more effectively but also support students in developing the cognitive skills they need for long-term academic and personal success.

# Understanding Learning Profiles to Differentiate Instruction

<b>COURSE TYPE:</b> Live, instructor-led	<b>OPTIONAL DELIVERY:</b> In-person / on-site (travel & living expenses extra)
<b>DURATION:</b> 2 hours	<b>BOOKING LEAD TIME:</b> 2 weeks
<b>STANDARD DELIVERY:</b> Remote-virtual (online)	<b>MAXIMUM SEATS:</b> 50

Every student brings a unique learning profile into the classroom, and understanding these differences is the key to effective differentiation. In this comprehensive session, you'll gain insight into how to tailor your instruction to meet the diverse needs of students, including those with dyslexia, English language learners (ELL), ADHD, speech/language challenges, at-risk students, gifted learners, and more.

## PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Explore the distinct characteristics of various learning profiles and understand how these influence student learning in both general education and intervention settings.
- Learn how to interpret assessment results to gain a deeper understanding of students' individual strengths and challenges.
- Discover practical strategies to differentiate instruction that meets the needs of all learners, from those needing intensive support to those requiring advanced enrichment.
- Develop classroom techniques and interventions that promote engagement, growth, and success for all students, no matter their learning profile.

By the end of this session, you'll have the tools to confidently differentiate your lessons, providing targeted support and fostering a learning environment where every student can thrive.



---

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact our team at Sprig Learning at:

[letstalk@spriglearning.com](mailto:letstalk@spriglearning.com)

CA (613) 212-2225

US (720) 994-8779

---