

Personal Data

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Professional Affiliation

J. Richard Gentry, PhD is an internationally acclaimed author, researcher, and educational consultant known for his ground-breaking work in education on topics such as early literacy; best-practices for reading, writing, and spelling; and dyslexia. In addition to authoring 16 books, 2 textbook series, and numerous journal and magazine articles, he blogs for the prestigious *Psychology Today* magazine offering commentary on a range of topics including education and policy, reading and the brain, baby/toddler reading, and educational standards. Recent books and textbooks include *Raising Confident Readers: How to Teach Your Child to Read and Write—From Baby to Age 7* (Da Capo Press, 2010), *Strategies for Writing Workshop* (Shell Education, 2016), *Kid Writing in the 21st Century* with Eileen Feldgus and Isabell Cardonick (Hameray Publishing Group, 2017) and *Spelling Connections* (Zaner-Bloser, 2016), a popular evidence-based spelling series for grades K-8. Dr. Gentry received a BA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a PhD from the University of Virginia. He currently resides in Mobile, Alabama and can be reached at Richard@jrichardgentry.com

Educational Background

Ph.D. in Education	University of Virginia, 1977
M. Ed. in Reading Education	University of Virginia, 1974
A.B. in Elementary Education	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1971

Full Time Academic Teaching Experience

Full Professor

Department of Elementary Education and Reading
Western Carolina University, July 1, 1989-1994

Director of the Reading Center

Western Carolina University, 1982-1989

Associate Professor

Department of Elementary Education and Reading
Western Carolina University, 1983-1989

Clinic Director

Summer Reading Clinics--Campus and Oteen Clinics (UNC-Asheville)
Western Carolina University, 1978-1984

Psychometrician

McGuffey Reading Center
University of Virginia, 1976-1977

Instructor

Continuing Education
University of Virginia, 1977

Clinic Director

Teenage Reading Clinic
McGuffey Reading Center
University of Virginia, 1974-1975

Public School Teacher

Grades 3, 4, and 5
Jackson Via Elementary School
Charlottesville Public Schools, Charlottesville, Virginia
1971-72; 1972-73; 1974-75

Sample Consulting and Contract Experience (Publishers, Corporations, and Abroad)

GoLexiGo Jamaica, WI	2017
Brill Kids International	2011-2013
Your Baby Can Read ®	2010, 1011
WCU Overseas Program	Belair School, Mandeville, Jamaica--1978; 1980; 1984 Priory School, Kingston, Jamaica--1980, 1981 Colegio Parrish, Barranquilla, Columbia, South America--1978

Department of Defense Schools Germany

Staff Development for Educators (SDE seminars)

Heinemann Workshops

2012 edition--present

Series Author, Zaner-Bloser spelling series
Spelling Connections: Words Into Language
1991-2012

Senior Author, Zaner-Bloser spelling series
Spelling Connections: Words Into Language
Zaner-Bloser, Inc. Honesdale, PA
1988

Starting Off with Phonics
Modern Curriculum Press
Cleveland, OH
Review for 1985 revision

Senior Author, Zaner-Bloser spelling series
Spell It--Write!
1993, 1997

CSI Spelling Program (WT)
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
San Francisco, CA--1979

Editorial Review Panels

The Reading Teacher (currently on the editorial board)
Reading & Writing Quarterly (currently on the editorial board)
Journal of Educational Psychology (guest reviewer, 2011)
The Elementary School Journal (guest reviewer)
NSSLHA Journal (editorial advisor)
Journal of Research in Childhood Education (guest reviewer)
Language Arts (guest reviewer)

Publications (selected)

Gentry, J.R., 2010 – Present.
Blogger for *Psychology Today* magazine. Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers: An Expert Guide for Parents.
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers>

Feldgus, E., Cardonick, I., and Gentry, J.R. (2017). *Kid Writing in the 21st Century*. Los Angeles, CA: Hameray Publishing Group.

Gentry, J.R. (2016a), 5 Reasons your child's school needs spelling books—Part 1. Post published in *Psychology Today*. April 23, 2016 in Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201604/5-reasons-your-child-s-school-needs-spelling-books>

Gentry, J.R. (2016b). 5 Brain-Based Reasons to Teach Handwriting in School. Post published in *Psychology Today*. September 15, 2016 in Raising Readers, writers, and spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201609/5-brain-based-reasons-teach-handwriting-in-school>

Gentry, J.R. (2015). Why America can't read. Post published in *Psychology Today*. August 25, 2015 in Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-speller...>

Gentry, J.R. (2006). *Breaking the code: The new science of beginning reading and writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J. R., & Graham, S. (2010). *Creating better readers and writers: The importance of direct, systematic spelling and handwriting instruction in improving academic performance*. Columbus, OH: Saperstein.

Gentry, J.R. (2016). *Spelling Connections*. Columbus, OH: Zaner-Bloser.

Gentry, J. R. (2010). *Raising Confident Readers: How to Teach Your Child to Read and Write—from Baby to Age 7*. New York: Da Capo Press, a member of Perseus Books LLC.

Gentry, J. R. (2008). *Step-by-Step Assessment Guide to Code Breaking*. New York: Scholastic.

Gentry, J. R. (2007). *Breakthrough in Beginning Reading and Writing: The Evidence-Based Approach to Pinpointing Students' Needs and Delivering Targeted Instruction*. New York: Scholastic.

Gentry, J. R. (2007). *Assessing early literacy with Richard Gentry: Five phases, one simple test*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J.R. (2007). *Spelling Connections: Words Into Language*. Columbus, OH: Zaner-Bloser.

Gentry, J. R. (2006). *Breaking the code: The new science of beginning reading and writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J. R. 2005. "Instructional Techniques for Emerging Writer's and Special Needs Students at Kindergarten and Grade 1 Levels." *Reading and Writing Quarterly*. 21:113-134.

Gentry, J. R. 2004. *The Science of Spelling: The Explicit Specifics That Make Great Readers and Writers (and Spellers!)*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J.R. (2016a), 5 Reasons your child's school needs spelling books—Part 1. Post published in *Psychology Today*. April 23, 2016 in Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201604/5-reasons-your-child-s-school-needs-spelling-books>

Gentry, J.R. (2016b). 5 Brain-Based Reasons to Teach Handwriting in School. Post published in *Psychology Today*. September 15, 2016 in Raising Readers, writers, and spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201609/5-brain-based-reasons-teach-handwriting-in-school>

Gentry, J.R. (2015). Why America can't read. Post published in *Psychology Today*. August 25, 2015 in Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-speller...>

Gentry, J.R. (2006). *Breaking the code: The new science of beginning reading and writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J. R., & Graham, S. (2010). *Creating better readers and writers: The importance of direct, systematic spelling and handwriting instruction in improving academic performance*. Columbus, OH: Saperstein.

Gentry, J. R. 2002. *The Literacy Map: Guiding Children to Where They Need to Be (4-6)*. New York: Mondo.

Gentry, J. R. 2000. "A Retrospective on Invented Spelling and a Look Forward." *The Reading Teacher*, 54 (3), 318-332.

Gentry, J. R. 2000. *The Literacy Map: Guiding Children to Where They Need to Be (K-3)*. New York: Mondo.

Gentry, J. R. 1987. *Spel...Is a Four-Letter Word*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Gentry, J. R. 1985. "You Can Analyze Developmental Spelling" *Teaching K-8*. 15: 44-45.

Gentry, J. R. 1982. *An analysis of developmental spelling in GNYS at WRK*. *The Reading Teacher*. 36, 192-200.

Gentry, J. R. 1981. "Learning to Spell Developmentally." *The Reading Teacher*, 34: 378-381.

Gentry, J.R. 1978. "Early Spelling Strategies." *The Elementary School Journal*, 79, 88-92.

Gentry, J. R. 1977. *A Study of the Orthographic Strategies of Beginning Readers*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Gentry, J. R. & E. H. Henderson. 1978. "Three Steps to Teaching Beginning Readers to Spell." *The Reading Teacher*, 31, 632-637.

Gentry, J.R., Jan McNeel and Vickie Wallace-Nesler (2014). *Fostering Writing in Today's Classroom*. Huntington Beach, CA: Shell Education.

Gentry, J.R., Jan McNeel and Vickie Wallace-Nesler (2013). *Getting to the Core of Writing: Essential Lessons for Every Kindergarten Student* (a seven book series for grades K-6).

Gentry, J.R., Jan McNeel and Vickie Wallace-Nesler (2014). *Fostering Writing in Today's Classroom*. Huntington Beach, CA: Shell Education.

Gentry, J.R., Jan McNeel and Vickie Wallace-Nesler (2013). *Getting to the Core of Writing: Essential Lessons for Every Kindergarten Student* (a seven book series for grades K-6)

Sample Media Events

August, 29, 2011
ABC tv Channel 7 Judy Shu Show

August 30, 2011
Mid Morning WGN tv Chicago

September 1, 2011
Good Day Dallas tv

July 26, 2010
Morning living on Martha Stewart Living Radio, Sirius 112/XM157

September 14, 2010
KENS 5 Fox News San Antonio TV
Interview on Great Day SA

September 15, 2010
Fox News 26 Houston TV interview

October 25, 2010
MrDad.com radio interview
Positive Parenting Radio

December 7, 2010
Good Day Austin Fox News TV Interview

July 30, 2011
WFHG The Barbara McFaddin Show

Conference Presentations and Seminars (selected events)

Keynote: 8th Annual Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference. Toronto District Schools. November 15, 2014. How to Guide Your Child from Birth to Graduation from College.

Keynote: West Virginia Reading Association 59th Conference. The Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. November 21, 2014. Reading and Writing—With the Arts—Off the Charts!

Seminar: The Cleveland Diocese Urban Institute: Cleveland, Ohio. June 10, 2014. Foundational Skills for Literacy Success.

Seminar: Nebraska Reading Association Conference. Kearney, Nebraska. February 22, 2014. Dispelling the Myths of Spelling Instruction—Why Spelling Matters and How Best to Teach It.

Early Education Technology Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 14, 2012, Early Reading, Powered by Technology!

Rutgers University—The 44th Annual Conference on Reading and Writing, Rutgers University, March 16, 2012, A Global, Unified Assessment: Monitoring the Phases of Reading/Writing/Spelling Development; The Do's and Don'ts of Comprehension Instruction (Prek-3)

International Reading Association 57th Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, April 30, 2012, The Top 10 Reasons to Teach Babies and Toddlers to Read and Engage Literacy Learners.

Keynote: West Virginia Reading Association, White Sulphur Springs, WV, November 17, 2011, Three Big Ideas for Promoting Reading Success and Meeting Common Core Standards.

Keynote: Keystone State Reading Conference, Lancaster, PA, October 27, 2011, Three Big Ideas for Promoting Reading Success and Meeting Common Core Standards.

Indiana Reading, Indianapolis, IN, March 4, 2008

Unleash the Power of Early Writing for Reading and Assessment

North Carolina Reading Association, Greensboro, NC, March 10, 2008

Spelling is More Important for Reading and Writing Than You Think!

Illinois Reading Association, Springfield, IL, March 14, 2008

Unleash the Power of Early Writing for Reading

Iowa Reading Association, Des Moines, Iowa, Keynote, April 4, 2008

Spelling Is More Important for Reading and Writing Than You Think

Maryland Reading (SoMIRAC), Baltimore, MD, Keynote, April 18, 2008

Spelling Is More Important for Reading and Writing Than You Think

International Reading Association Annual Convention, Atlanta GA, May 5, 2008

Using Phase Observation to Monitor Growth of Beginning Readers and Writers from Early Stages of Code Breaking to Reading Proficiency

SDE National Literacy Conference, Las Vegas, NE, July 11, 2008

Breakthrough in Beginning Reading & Writing: Moving Reading into the 21st Century

2008 Heinemann Workshops

Richmond, VA, April 28

Providence, RI, April 30

2008 SDE Schedule

Houston, 10/16

San Antonio, 10/17

Birmingham, 10/23

Atlanta, 10/24

Syracuse, 11/6

Buffalo, 11/7

Milwaukee, 12/4

Chicago, 12/5

School District Consultations 2008 (sample)

Joyce Kilmer Elementary School, Cherry Hill, NJ

Randolph County Public Schools, Asheboro, NC

Amphitheater Public Schools, Tucson, AR

Northside ISD, San Antonio, TX

East Windsor Public Schools, Hightstown, NJ
Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

Memberships in National Professional Organizations

International Reading Association
National Council of Teachers of English
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Editorial Review Boards

The Reading Teacher
Reading & Writing Quarterly

Academic Honors

Phi Beta Kappa University of North Carolina, 1971
Dupont Graduate Fellowship University of Virginia, 1973
Phi Delta Kappa 1979
Botner Superior Teaching Award Western Carolina University, 1982
Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award (School of Education and Psychology, 1983) WCU