

## 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 17 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), *Brain Words: How the Science of Reading Informs Teaching* with Gene Ouellette (Stenhouse Publishers, 2019), *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](mailto:Richard@jrichardgentry.com)

## Educational Background

<b>Ph.D. in Education</b>	University of Virginia, 1977
<b>M. Ed. in Reading Education</b>	University of Virginia, 1974
<b>A.B. in Elementary Education</b>	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 Staff Development for Educators (SDE seminars)	Germany--1991
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* (past editorial advisor)

*Journal of Research in Childhood Education* (guest reviewer)

*Language Arts* (guest reviewer)

#### Publications (selected)

- Books

Gentry, J. Richard. & Gene Ouellette (2019). *Brain Words: How the Science of Reading Informs Teaching*. Portsmouth, NH: Stenhouse.

Gentry, J. Richard & Susan Sturock. "Five Research-Based Strategies for Early Elementary School Success." In *Research-Based Instructional Practices of Effective Principals* (eds.) C Steven Bingham, Paula E. Egeleson, & Karen Sanzo. Charlotte, NC: IAP—Information

Feldgus, E., Cardonick, I., & Gentry, J. R. (2017). *Kid Writing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Los Angeles, CA: Hameray Publishing

Group.

Gentry, J. Richard. (2016). *Spelling Connections K-8*. Columbus, OH: Zaner-Bloser.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gentry, J. Richard, Jan McNeel & Vickie Wallace-Nesler (2013). *Getting to the Core of Writing: Essential Lessons for Every Kindergarten Student* (a seven book series for grades K-6). Huntington Beach, CA: Shell Education.

- Sample Blogs

**Gentry, J. Richard, 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>

2018. "Bridging the Gap Between Science and Poor Reading in America." *Psychology Today* blog. May 16, 2018. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201805/bridging-the-gap-between-science-and-poor-reading-0>

2017. "Landmark Study Finds Better Path to Reading Success." *Psychology Today* blog. March 30, 2017. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201703/landmark-study-finds-better-path-reading-success>

2017. "Lousy Spelling—Why Americans Can't Read or Think Well." *Psychology Today* blog. July 13, 2017. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201707/lousy-spelling-why-americans-can-t-read-or-think>.

2016. "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>
2016. "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>
2015. "Why America can't read." Post published in *Psychology Today*. August 25, 2015 in Raising Readers, Writers, and Spellers. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/raising-readers-writers-and-spellers/201508/why-america-can-t-read>

▪ Sample Articles

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. Richard. 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. Richard. 2000. "A Retrospective on Invented Spelling and a Look Forward." *The Reading Teacher* 54 (3): 318–332.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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)

**June 19, 2018—Houston Texas—Spring Branch ISD**  
Grades K-2      Spelling in the Primary Classroom  
Grades 3-5      How Spelling Impacts Reading in the Intermediate Grades

**June 21, 2018—New York City**  
Administrator Appreciation Event with Dr. Richard Gentry  
Presented by Zaner-Bloser, Christian Standerwick & Kevin Barrett  
The Neuroscience of Spelling, Reading, and Word Study

**June 22, 2018—Cherry Hill, New Jersey—Cherry Hill School District**  
Dyslexia Training K-5  
A Cherry Hill School District Event

Keynote: 8<sup>th</sup> 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 59<sup>th</sup> 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 44<sup>th</sup> 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 57<sup>th</sup> 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