



## CHOOSING A SLINGERLAND SCHOOL

### What should you know about schools or tutors identifying themselves as providing Slingerland training?

A teacher using the complete Slingerland® Multisensory Structured Language Approach should include all of the following in teaching sessions:

- Oral language development
- Phonological Awareness
- Handwriting Instruction should include introduction to letter formation – manuscript or cursive depending on the student age and needs; daily practice and review to build automatic recall of letter forms needed for spelling and expressing ideas.
- Alphabet review to build automatic intersensory association of the letters and sounds needed for spelling and decoding.
- Practice with encoding phonetic words, using prefixes and suffixes, writing phrases and sentences.
- Practice with decoding phonetic words and applying skills with unfamiliar words.
- Preparation for reading that helps students with unfamiliar words or concepts and builds understanding of grammar elements that lead to comprehension.
- Guided reading from the book to build comprehension and fluency.

In some cases, students receive only intervention for a part of the format listed above. Be certain that the services provided meet your student's needs.

### Ask the school the following questions:

#### About the School

- How is the Slingerland Instruction provided – in the classroom, in small group pull-out programs, or individually? The Slingerland® Approach may be presented in any of these formats.
- How much time is allotted for handwriting, spelling and written language, and reading?
- How are students grouped for instruction?
- Is there planning for individual needs? Does planning and the material used varied so children find success at their own levels?
- Are classrooms well organized and neat?
- Are students actively engaged and attending to the teacher and performing classmates?

- Does the school consider all curriculum when planning for your child? If in a pull-out program, will he or she miss the subjects at which he or she excels?

### **About the Teacher**

- Check the credentials of the Slingerland providers. Ask about training, experience and references. It is important that the tutor is a certified teacher or has expertise in the subject being taught.
- How much Slingerland training has the teacher received?
- How long has the teacher used the Slingerland® Approach?
- Does the school provide Slingerland supervision or in-service for the staff? Periodic observations or in-service by a Slingerland® Director will ensure high standards of teacher performance.
- The instructor should set clear goals for instruction and provide an instructional plan.
- Students with learning disabilities need practice and repetition to master skills.
- **REMEMBER THAT IT TAKES TIME TO SEE IMPROVEMENT. DO NOT EXPECT A QUICK FIX.**
- Observe your child working instructor. The session should include hands -on learning and be very interactive. The instructor should be guiding your child through explicit, systematic instruction and guided practice.