

Right to Read
Reading Readiness Screening Tool & Workshop
by the **Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta**

The **Right to Read** program helps teachers assess students' early reading skills and provide effective literacy instruction.

The **Reading Readiness Screening Tool** provides teachers with a useful, accessible, and affordable assessment to screen their students for foundational reading readiness skills.

Reading Readiness Screening Tool (RRST)

- Is free to those who take the course
- focuses on the components of reading acquisition
- provides a baseline reading readiness assessment
- allows for measurement of student progress
- is a diagnostic tool that identifies children at-risk for reading difficulties
- provides information to guide teaching practice
- is administered by teachers

Foundational Literacy Skills Assessed

- Oral Language; vocabulary, sentence structure
- Phonological Awareness, including Phonemic Awareness
- Concepts about Print
- Letter-Sound Mastery; letter and sound identification, high frequency words, non-word decoding, spelling

WHY use the Reading Readiness Screening Tool (RRST)

Early screening of foundational literacy skills, in tandem with effective core instruction and intervention, is known to reduce the number of children who struggle with reading and writing.

For WHO:

- All kindergarten and grade 1 students in regular English programs
- All grade 1 and grade 2 students in French programs
- Older struggling students
- English Language Learners

RTR Course – Assessment Informs Instruction

Assessment: The course first informs participants how to administer the **Reading Readiness Screening Tool** and interpret results.

Instruction: Teachers are then guided to use the data to effectively teach foundational reading acquisition skills. These instructional strategies are effective for both core instruction (Tier 1) to

all students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 & 2, and for small group intervention for struggling learners.

Format:

English: Online course, with a facilitator providing support and answering participants' questions. Participants have the full school year to complete the course.

French: In-Person workshop currently. The online version will be available in French by fall of 2023

BENEFITS of the Right to Read screening tool and course

- Assess and teach the foundational literacy skills that have been identified in Science of Reading research (oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics)
- Subtests and accompanying instructional strategies are aligned with the English Language Arts provincial curriculum outcomes for grades K-2 in Alberta and other jurisdictions
- Use of the RRST ensures strengths and weaknesses are identified very early
- Diagnostic information can be used to inform both core instruction and intervention
- Progress Monitoring; the assessments can be re-administered to gauge students' growth or continued areas of need
- Instruction utilizes a Structured Literacy Approach, which is explicit, systematic, & cumulative

The **Right to Read (RTR)** program was developed by a committee of specialists with the **Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta (LDAA)**. The screening tool (RRST) and workshop is based on evidence gathered from many disciplines over several decades that has provided important insights into how children learn to read. This research is considered the **"Science of Reading"**.

*"RRST is an assessment tool – which helps teachers to find out
What students are not able to do yet,
Just learning how to do,
And are already able to do."*

Calgary Board of Education (CBE)

"Assessment is embedded in the learning process. It is tightly interconnected with curriculum and instruction. As teachers and students work toward the achievement of curriculum outcomes, assessment plays a constant role in informing instruction, guiding the student's next steps, and checking progress and achievement."

Learn Alberta website: Assessment

Catching Children Before They Fail

