Kerry Laster and Debbie Rickards are reading specialists with PhD degrees in curriculum and instruction from LSU. Kerry has been a teacher, principal, superintendent, and Louisiana Department of Education leader. Debbie has been a teacher, tutor, instructional coordinator, and language arts specialist. Each has over 35 years in education and has worked as administrators and evaluators at The Reading Center in Shreveport. Additionally, both have worked in multiple states, with special needs students, and with students from pre-kindergarten through the university level.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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or visit our website at www.louisianaliteracyassessments.com

LOUISIANA LITERACY assessments

Testing & Evaluation Services

Is your child struggling with reading and writing tasks? We can help!



Kerry Laster, PhD 318.719.5629

Debbie Rickards, PhD 318.401.7394

> READING SPECIALISTS

February 2023

FAQs

OUR SERVICES

Louisiana Literacy Assessments (LLA) is a private, independent, locally-owned testing and evaluation service with the goal of supporting students who struggle with literacy tasks. An evaluation helps parents and educators identify what is contributing to a child's academic problems. LLA also provides recommendations for effective instructional strategies.

TESTING

LLA offers testing in all areas of literacy. Each evaluation will take approximately 2-3 hours, depending upon the child's age and abilities. Standardized and criterion-referenced tests are used and may include:

- oral reading fluency and comprehension
- silent reading comprehension
- vocabulary
- writing
- spelling/phonics/phonological awareness
- early literacy skills
- an IQ screening

After testing, **LLA** professionals will prepare a comprehensive written report which contains information concerning the child's academic and medical history, teacher and parent input, observations of the child, test results, and recommendations for intervention and academic support. **What is my first step?** Email us or call Dr. Laster or Dr. Rickards to discuss your concerns, testing costs, and/or to schedule an evaluation for your child.

What does the evaluation include? Each evaluation includes a review of pertinent information the family and teacher provide, consultation with other professionals, personalized testing, a comprehensive written report, and an in-person conference with the student's parents.

Does LLA provide tutoring services? No, **LLA** focuses exclusively on testing, test interpretation, and instructional recommendations. If possible, however, we will help you identify potential tutors within the community.

Will LLA send the report to my child's school? No. All test results are confidential and are the property of the parents. If parents desire to share the report with others, it is their right to do so.

What happens after the testing is completed? After your child has been tested, the professionals at LLA will gather and analyze the information, share the results with you (in person and in writing), and give you written recommendations.

How long will the process take? Once the evaluation is scheduled, testing takes approximately 2-3 hours. A written report will be shared within one week of the evaluation.

What is NOT included in the evaluation? LLA does not do extensive testing for math concerns, ADHD, speech, behavior, or social/emotional health, though our literacy professionals may address these issues.