



# IARLD Pre-Conference Day

Monday, September 15, 2025  
9:00-15:00, Nicosia, Cyprus

## Exploring the field: optimizing early literacy in lagging nations

European and Asian nations with regular orthographies, such as Cyprus, Finland, Estonia, Taiwan, South Korea, or Japan, set the global benchmark for effective early literacy. Their children acquire strong literacy skills early, schools face less pressure, and PIRLS results show fewer low achievers. In contrast, Anglophone and many developing nations lag but hold great potential for progress.

Join us in Cyprus for a thought-provoking brainfest on this topic. Our pre-conference takes place two days before the 47th IARLD Annual Conference. On Tuesday, we'll visit local schools and discuss literacy education with teachers and leaders, preparing us for the discussions to follow during the main conference (September 17-19).

The day will feature brief presentations by colleagues with deep experience, followed by group discussions and brainstorming. We'll base our sessions on the IARLD Call to Research and findings from crosslinguistic studies, such as:

- Rapid development of phonological awareness and word-level skills in regular orthographies (Grade 1), vs. delays in English (Grades 5–9).
- English-specific challenges: long multisyllabic words, irregular vowel spellings, and late phonemic awareness.
- The potential of 2-Stage Early Literacy instruction to accelerate learning and reduce difficulties in complex orthographies.

## Topics include:

- Key evidence from crosslinguistic and early literacy research.
- The role of child readiness, executive function, and learning resilience.
- The impact of orthographic regularity on statistical learning and literacy success.
- Effectiveness of GraphoLearn in prevention and intervention.
- Why developing nations with regular orthographies should reconsider Anglophone methods.
- Characteristics of 2-Stage instruction in Taiwan and Anglophone contexts (e.g., Initial Teaching Alphabet-ITA, Flekseespiel).

## We'll also explore future directions, including:

- Designing local and crosslinguistic studies on early literacy development with orthographic impact.
- Investigating differences in child and teacher workload due to orthography.
- Addressing Anglocentric bias in educational practice and research priorities.
- Identifying simple, practical ways for IARLD to promote the Call to Research and support much-needed comparative research on orthographic impact and literacy success.

Come one, come all. Given it's a Monday, consider arriving early and enjoying a relaxed weekend in Cyprus!



[www.cyprusconferences.org/iarld2025](http://www.cyprusconferences.org/iarld2025)

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