

“I wasn’t expecting this level of support with a phonics program.”

We spoke to Learning Specialist, April Shores-Endrigat, at Le Jardin Academy in Hawaii about *Read Write Inc. Phonics* in an International Baccalaureate school.

Regardless of your approach to education, a solid foundation in reading is necessary for all future learning. We are an International Baccalaureate (IB) school and our lessons are ‘inquiry-based,’ meaning no pre-cut lesson plans – we let the children take a more leading role in their education.

While we knew we were putting out amazing thinkers into the world, we realized we needed a different approach to teaching reading and writing. We needed a formal approach that was more sequential and structured. It was at this point that we started searching for a phonics program.

I looked into different phonics programs but none were quite right for our needs until I came across *Read Write Inc. Phonics*. I was at an IB conference in Hong Kong and met many other teachers who were struggling to mesh the inquiry-based system with an effective system of teaching reading and writing. One teacher, who was already using *Read Write Inc. Phonics* at their IB school in Hong Kong, sung its praises to me. I learned more about the program and what it would mean for us and, well, it was not hard to sell to our Principal. We haven’t looked back. *Read Write Inc. Phonics* slots perfectly into our inquiry-based units.

Before implementing *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, our teaching assistants hadn’t been used for the level of precise teaching that you need for *Read Write Inc. Phonics*’ system to run. The expert training from Ruth Miskin Literacy Inc. has empowered our teaching assistants and they have risen to the challenge.

School Name: **Le Jardin Academy**
Location: **Kailua, Hawaii, USA**

The children find comfort in the predictability of *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, they like knowing what is coming next. They easily see their progress, which makes a huge difference. Grouping by progress has also been successful for us. We are constantly changing the groups around – previously groups would have remained static. The children enjoy being mixed up and don’t feel like they are pigeon-holed into a group they don’t belong.

Our Consultant Trainer, Colleen Somich, has been beyond helpful. She is always available to support and easy to talk to. She came out to Hawaii for our initial training and since then we have had numerous online meetings to problem solve. I wasn’t expecting this level of support with a phonics program. Colleen’s help makes the program come alive in our school.

