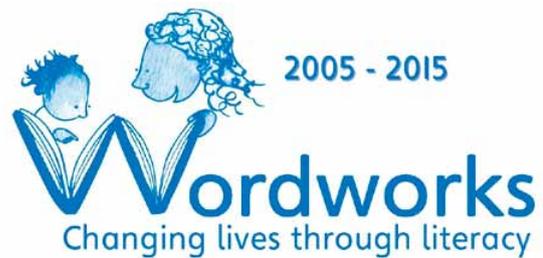


*Young children learn to love language by interacting with adults who value them and engage with their stories and ideas.*



2005 - 2015

# Annual Report 2015

Wordworks supports early language and literacy learning among children from historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa. By sharing our materials, know-how and enthusiasm with teachers, parents, volunteer tutors and home visitors in a respectful and inclusive way, we seek to ensure that all our children can learn to read and write successfully.

To find out more about our work, visit our website at [www.wordworks.org.za](http://www.wordworks.org.za) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wordworksSA](http://www.facebook.com/wordworksSA).

## A message from Shelley O'Carroll, Director of Wordworks

In 2015, we celebrated our tenth birthday and had a chance to reflect back on our first years as an emerging organisation in the literacy space. For ten years we have been working to share our knowledge; to resource and support those that care for and work with young children; and to advocate for the importance of early language and literacy. Much has changed and yet at heart we remain a team deeply committed to creating opportunities for young children to learn to read and write.

Our celebration was shared by family, friends, colleagues, designers, donors, teachers, curriculum advisors, principals, volunteers and parents who have been part of our journey. The achievements of our organisation are in no small way due to the many literacy champions who give of their time and energy, and the many organisations that are making use of our programmes and resources in their work. Our wise colleague, Brigid Comrie, who started the Wordworks' journey with me ten years ago, recently reminded me of a quote that used to hang on the wall in our office: 'work is love made visible'. For the many women that do Wordworks work, this is surely the case.

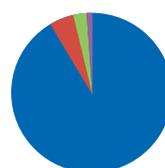
While still a relatively small organisation, our capacity and reach has grown in ten years. We now work with over 70 schools and 25 organisations and are in a position to partner with government to offer in-service training to 3000 Grade R teachers across the Western Cape. At a time when research has shown that access to Grade R does not improve the school achievement of children from the poorest communities, we have been challenged to show that, in fact, high quality Grade R can make all the difference.

Across the province we have seen a cadre of 150 Grade R teachers take up the challenge. They have attended training, and used the programme in their classrooms, and now, working as volunteers, they are sharing their learning with their peers in a Lead Teacher roll out model. Through incremental, resource-rich training that includes

regular reflection on their classroom practice, we believe that Grade R teachers are developing the knowledge and confidence to play a vitally important role in children's literacy development.

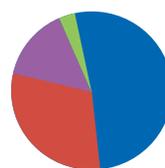
We continue to work in spaces outside of the classroom that are equally as important for language and literacy development. We see the impact on families when parents and caregivers are given opportunities to learn how to support learning at home. We are more and more convinced of the valuable contribution that can be made by community members, trained as early literacy tutors, to ensure that children who are at risk are supported in learning to read and write.

It is said that every generation has its own struggle, and for ours it must be that so many young children still do not have the opportunities that enable them to realise their potential. I have been privileged to lead a team of exceptional people over the past ten years whose work is showing just what potential young children have – and what can be achieved through supporting those that care for them.



Income 2015

- Grants & donations 92%
- Bursary fund 2%
- Sales of resources & services rendered 5%
- Interest 1%



Expenditure 2015

- Training & Capacity Building 52%
- Materials & Resources 30%
- Office costs 15%
- Bursary Fund 3%

# Wordworks in 2015

## Every word counts

Supporting families to learn together

*"The materials are colourful, informative, brilliant!"*  
(partner NGO)

*"I feel inspired to use all the material in our Moms and Tots and Clinic Programmes."*  
(partner NGO)

- 22 trainers of Home-visitors and ECD Practitioners trained on this new programme focussed on children aged 0-5.
- 9 partner NGOs from the Western and Eastern Cape were involved.
- Over 200 Home-visitors and ECD Practitioners are using EWC resources in their work with parents and young children.



## Home-School Partnership Programme

Supporting informal learning at home

*"I learnt that all parents are teachers, no matter what their circumstances and quality of their education."*  
(Teacher-facilitator)

*"(I learnt) to love and to listen to my child and take his ideas."* (Parent)

- 44 Schools and 5 partner NGOs participated in the HSPP this year.
- Close to 100 Foundation Phase Teacher-facilitators were trained to offer the programme.
- 716 parents/caregivers received certificates for completing the 8-session course.
- Over 1500 children benefitted through their parents' participation in the programme this year.



An emergent literacy in-service teacher training programme

*"For the first time in a long time my passion for teaching is coming back. A highlight was gaining confidence in what type of teacher as well as person I'd like to be and am capable of being."*  
(Lead Teacher)

The following were trained on the STELLAR programme:

- 8 ECD and 46 Foundation Phase Advisors in the Western Cape
- 183 Lead Teachers in the Western Cape who will train 3000 Grade R teachers in 2016
- 37 teachers in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia
- 25 trainers from 11 partner NGOs in the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape and the North West Province

Over 6 600 Grade R children have benefitted.



## Ready, steady... read and write!

An early literacy support programme

*"I have noticed a steady improvement in reading, writing and language but the biggest boost has been the pupils' self-confidence - 'I can do it!' Their enjoyment says it all."* (Volunteer)

- 66 schools and 17 partner NGOs participated in the programme this year.
- 697 volunteer Co-ordinators and Tutors have been trained to date.
- 2951 Grade R and Grade 1 children attended weekly lessons to improve their reading and writing skills.



Thank you to all our donors who make our work possible.