

What does Wordworks do?

Wordworks is a South African non-profit organisation that focuses on early language and literacy development in the first eight years of children's lives. Since 2005, we have worked in under-resourced communities with those adults best positioned to impact on young children's language and literacy development – parents and caregivers, family and community members, home visitors, early childhood development practitioners and Grade R to Grade 3 teachers.

We are working collaboratively to grow an informed, capable, resourced and motivated network of schools, organisations and institutions that promote the importance of, and work effectively for, the improvement of children's early language and literacy, through their association with our programmes and materials.

Wordworks offers training, resources and support for partners who wish to use our early language and literacy programmes in their own networks.

Programmes are sustained through ongoing relationships with Wordworks, including refresher training and events, input and guidance, access to resources and opportunities, sharing of learning and support for programme monitoring and evaluation. Wordworks contributes to language and early literacy learning through the ongoing development and improvement of our programmes and materials, through publications, presentations at conferences and through a wide range of practical open-access resources, drawn from and tested in our programmes. These are made available to the public as free downloads on our website and are also for sale through our catalogue and public workshops, conferences and events.

What is Wordworks approach to language and literacy?

All our programmes include messaging about the importance of language for literacy development and the need to build children's home language in the early years as a foundation for the acquisition of a second language.

We advocate for children to have access to multilingual, language-rich stories and books, as well as meaningful experiences with print.

We also know that letter-sound knowledge and phonological awareness are key predictors of whether children learn to read and write and we have developed resources and guidelines to support these important foundations for literacy.

Our programmes are based on an emergent literacy perspective and the idea that learning to read and write is a process that happens over time in the context of supportive and responsive relationships.



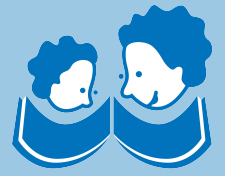
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Early Literacy Programmes by Wordworks



0–5 years

The **Every Word Counts Programme** can be used across a range of community settings to introduce knowledge about early learning to those who care for and work with babies and young children. It provides practical ideas for supporting the development of early language and literacy, from birth to 5 years of age.

Organisations can integrate the programme and resources into their work with parents and caregivers through home visits or parent groups. ECD practitioners and playgroup facilitators can use their learning in their daily interactions with children and are encouraged to run a series of workshops for their parents.



This programme is for parents and caregivers of babies and children up to 5 years of age.

5–6 years

The **Stellar Home Language Programme** is designed to strengthen language and emergent literacy in Grade R classrooms. It is interactive, activity-rich and CAPS-aligned and is built around a two-week story-based framework.

Wordworks trains trainers to offer this resource-based programme to Grade R teachers. The teacher training integrates theory and practice, giving opportunity for reflection and planning.

It deepens teachers' understanding of the vital role they play in building language and literacy, and equips them to partner with parents.



This programme is for Grade R teachers working with children aged 5–6 years.

5–8 years

The **Home-School Partnerships Programme** is designed for Foundation Phase and Learning Support teachers to facilitate a space for parents in which to share knowledge and ideas about children's language and early literacy development. The programme builds co-operation between families and schools, and encourages parents in their role as their children's first teachers.

Teacher-Facilitators run a programme of workshops for parents and caregivers. The workshops run for 2½ hours a week over eight weeks.



This programme is for parents and caregivers of children aged 5–8 years.

4–5 years

The **Little Stars Programme** is designed to strengthen language and emergent literacy in pre-Grade R classrooms. The programme is interactive, activity-rich, NCF-aligned and is built around a two-week story-based framework.

Wordworks trains trainers to offer this resource-based programme to pre-Grade R teachers. The teacher training integrates the Every Word Counts core training so that the Little Stars teaching time is part of a holistic approach to building strong language across the daily programme.



This programme is for pre-Grade R teachers working with children aged 4–5 years.

5–7 years

The **TIME Home Learning Programme** is a set of daily story-based activities designed by Wordworks and RED INK. The activities can be used at home and in after-school programmes to build language and maths foundations in Grade R and Grade 1.

Teachers attend online orientation, encourage and guide parents to use the activities at home and can refer children for support with trained tutors. This builds co-operation between families, schools and communities and establishes home learning routines.

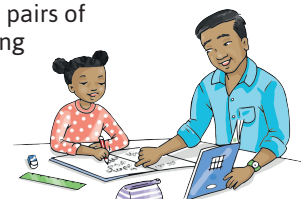


This programme is for parents, caregivers and tutors of children aged 5–7.

5–8 years

The **Ready Steady Read Write Programme** is designed to be used in schools in Grade R to build language and literacy foundations and as an early intervention in Grade 1. It can also be used to support Grade 2 learners to learn to speak, read and write in a second language.

Wordworks trains site Co-ordinators who train, manage and support tutors to work with pairs of children, on a weekly basis during the school morning, for at least six months. No qualifications are required but Tutors and Co-ordinators must receive training on the programme.



This programme is for tutors working with children aged 5–8 years

To express interest in training to use the programmes, please scan the QR code:

Or go to this page: <https://www.wordworks.org.za/train-to-use-our-programmes-2/>

