

WELCOME

Welcome back to another year of changing lives through literacy! In our first newsletter of 2017, we look back at some of the highlights of a very busy 2016; and look ahead to 2017, which promises to be as fulfilling.

We welcome wonderful new people to the Wordworks team in 2017 and have said one sad goodbye. We have grown our team so that we can meet the training requests of increasing numbers of schools and organisations using our programmes in the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal. Read about WordNetworks to find out how you can join this expanding network.

We know it's hard to find the time with everyone going back to school and to work, but please keep trying to talk, read and play with the children in your care, because every words counts.

We wish you a creative, fulfilling and happy 2017!

Shelley O'Carroll, Director of Wordworks

**We have updated our logo.
We hope you like it as much as we do.**



INTRODUCING WordNetworks

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO SUPPORT EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

We have always worked collaboratively with individuals, schools, organisations and institutions who have participated in our training and are using one of our programmes in their work.

We are now working more actively to grow a network that promotes the importance of, and supports the development of children's early language and literacy.

Members of WordNetworks will receive:

- quarterly newsletters and regular updates about literacy-related resources and opportunities
- learning visits and/or contact with one of our mentors
- Wordworks programme resources
- updates to programme resources
- monitoring and evaluation tools

They will also receive invitations to:

- attend training on one of our programmes
- attend top-up training to build capacity
- participate in annual early literacy events
- join a WhatsApp group (with regular updates and tips)

We would like to give network members more opportunities to share experiences of how they are using our programmes, and in so doing contribute to our understanding of how to improve language and literacy outcomes for young children.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

STELLAR



3000 Grade R teachers, 80 WCED advisors, 6 Wordworks Support-Advisors, and 250 Emergent Literacy Lead Teachers participated in a jam-packed 5 days of STELLAR Emergent Literacy Training across the Western Cape in July!



The year-long roll out of the STELLAR programme ended with certification ceremonies and inspiring exhibitions by teachers from all the education districts.

Every word counts



50 ECD practitioners, assistants and home visitors attended monthly Every word counts workshops in Worcester in 2016. They gained deeper insight into how to talk and play with babies and very young children to build language and lay the foundations for reading and writing.



Our EWC team is on a big drive to develop home-made resources from recycled materials to help provide much needed stimulation for babies and young children.

Home-School Partnerships



69 teachers from 33 schools from as far afield as Montagu, Belhar, Mitchells Plain and Hout Bay, gathered to share the highlights of 2016 and secure further support from Wordworks for their ongoing programmes.



529 parents graduated in 2016 after attending eight HSPP sessions with dedicated teachers from their children's schools. The workshops helped them find out how best to support informal learning at home.

Ready, steady...read and write!



In September, 200 Tutors and Site Co-ordinators who tutor at schools across Cape Town and in Darling and Morreesberg, gathered at the first annual Ready, steady ... read and write Indaba.



Little ones from our RSRW schools across Mitchells Plain, Grassy Park and further afield were excited about the certificates, storybooks and treats they got as a reward for their efforts to improve their reading and writing.

Special Events



Wordworks staff, volunteers and partners participated in #PositivePosterWeek in June 2016. We highlighted a few of the many things that make us happy about working for the improvement of children's early language and literacy.



Mandela Day in Mitchells Plain. More than a hundred people from Mitchell's Plain braved the winter rain in July to join us and our volunteer tutors in an activity-packed morning at Lentegeur Library for Mandela Day. We aimed to inspire parents to play, read and talk with their young children – building foundations for reading and writing.

You can keep up with our work by liking our facebook page (www.facebook.com/wordworksSA), or visiting our website. Your comments and feedback are always welcome!

DONATE TO THE WORDWORKS STORYBOOK FUND
wordworks.org.za/get-involved/donate-to-our-storybook-fund

CALENDAR FIRST QUARTER 2017

Home-School Partnerships

- 25 or 26 January:** Planning workshop for HSPF facilitators who have already been trained
- 28 January, 18 February, 25 March:** training for 'new' HSPF facilitators – West Coast
- 4 February and 4 March:** training for 'new' HSPF facilitators – Metro Group 1
- 11 February and 11 March:** training for 'new' HSPF facilitators – Metro Group 2

Ready, steady...read and write!

- 15 and 16 February:** Grade One Tutor training
- 21 and 22 February:** Grade One Tutor training

Wordworks AT A GLANCE - 2016

WE OFFERED COURSES TO

59 EWC Trainers

160 RSRW Tutors

45 RSRW Site Co-ordinators

34 HSPP Course Facilitators



WE PARTNERED WITH AND SUPPORTED

140

WordNetworks members

WE SHARED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

 **4 500** people received **R878 868** sponsored materials

 **91** people bought materials to the value of **R194 190**

 **15 203** page views of materials on our website

WE CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE

People who received our quarterly newsletter **812**

Unique website visitors (70% new this year) **8 848**

Facebook page likes **1 143**

Facebook reactions, comments and shares **4 224**



WordNetworks



Wordworks' programmes were run by **80 SCHOOLS AND 60 ORGANISATIONS** active in WordNetworks in 2016.

121 HSPP Course Facilitators worked with **529 PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

158 STELLAR Lead Teachers and **77** STELLAR Trainers worked with **3 151 GRADE R TEACHERS**

27 EWC Trainers worked with over **200 ECD PRACTITIONERS AND HOME VISITORS**

115 RSRW Site Co-ordinators worked with **671 RSRW TUTORS**



Thanks to the hard work of the network
1 348 FAMILIES AND 99 800 YOUNG CHILDREN
benefitted from Wordworks' early language and literacy programmes.



HELLO AND GOODBYE

Four new people are joining Wordworks! **Phutunywa Gxavu**, **Asanda Mpahla** and **Sarah Florence** will be supporting and sharing their experience and expertise with teachers and volunteer tutors this year. We look forward to the positive contribution they will make to our programmes.

We said goodbye to **Angelique Twiss** who left Wordworks after six years. Ange first worked in our Early Literacy Programme, and then developed and led our STELLAR Programme which was implemented throughout all schools in the Western Cape in 2016. Thank-you, Ange, for the gift of this programme that is changing so many lives!



Angelique Twiss with a young learner