

POINT OF VIEW

In many classrooms in South Africa, the word 'writing' is linked to letter formation, spelling or copying words from the board. However, writing is so much more than this. We like to think of writing as a way of communicating and sharing thoughts and ideas on paper (or in print).

Writing begins with an idea that we want to share, and the vocabulary and language to express this idea. Once we have thought of the words we want to write, we must pay attention to the sounds in these words. We need to know which letters are used to represent these sounds in the language we are using to write. Once we know which letters we want to use, we must still remember how to form these letters correctly. We also need to learn that, in English, some words are written in ways that the letters don't match all the sounds in the words. This is why learning to write is no easy task for six year olds!

If we want good writers, we must start early by building children's vocabulary and giving them opportunities to share their ideas and explain what they are thinking. We must give them scrap paper and crayons to make marks and draw the world around them. From an early age they should have fun listening to sounds in words, and learning about how these sounds link to letters. We need to give children reasons to draw and write to other people, and encourage them to use writing in their play. We must remember that in the early stages of learning to write, invented spelling is not wrong, but is part of working out how the writing system works.

Children need time and every bit of encouragement to master this very important skill.



Shelley O' Carroll,
Director of Wordworks

PICTURE STORY



Cherise Sickle works at the Lebone Centre in Grahamstown as an Early Childhood Development Co-ordinator. She says, "I am very passionate about education and I have a hungry brain for learning! In August 2017, after I received training on the **Ready Steady Read Write Programme**, I could not contain my enthusiasm and excitement when I realized that I have received training and worked with ALL the Wordworks programmes! The Wordworks programmes are informative, interesting and their resources are of a high standard and quality. I even instilled a love for reading in my son by using Wordworks programmes. Read more about Cherise on our website.

TOP TIP

Encourage your child to write for a purpose, for example, write a birthday card or a shopping list together. Let your child see you writing and explain what you are doing - children will want to write more if they know that writing has a purpose!



Training for Wordworks Programmes

Please consult our website to decide which programme will meet your need. Send an email to info@wordworks.org.za telling us who you are and why you would like to train to use a programme. We will contact you as soon as there is an opportunity to attend an information session or apply for a training course. Please be patient with us - we have many requests!



MY STORY

Sukayna Salie

My introduction to the Wordworks **Ready Steady Read Write Programme** was in 2009. I was honoured to be asked by the teachers at Cornflower Primary to assist with the parent programme. I then volunteered for the Ready Steady co-ordinator training where I felt my head was going to burst with all the information! I had so many ideas of what I wanted to do, how I wanted my setup to be at the school. Wordworks uses amazing techniques and I like the way they treat the volunteers. I also received excellent guidance from my mentor, Sue, who was always there to offer support.



In the first year of doing the **Ready Steady Read Write Programme**, a Wordworks learner got the MOST IMPROVED award at the school which was amazing! I used the Wordworks Game Pack with my daughter when she was 4 years old. She is currently in Grade 1 and her teacher says "She is brilliant, and her reading is excellent". I advertised tutoring services and volunteered at the Muslim school where I used the Ready Steady programme as well. Teachers invited me to speak about Wordworks at parent meetings.

Doing the Wordworks programme inspired me to do a B Ed degree through UNISA. I have almost completed my degree now and even got some distinctions under my belt. In January, the principal of Spineview Primary granted me the opportunity to be a Grade One teacher. He was so impressed when he heard that I was Wordworks trained. I felt so blessed. Up 'til today my job is my passion and I'm excited every morning to teach something new.

Being trained by Wordworks really laid a solid foundation for me to work with young children. I have more patience and am able to bring the lesson to the child's level so they understand better. I use Wordworks' methods daily in my class. Now for birthday gifts I give story books and I promote the game packs at every chance I get.

Wordworks has given even me a confidence boost. I stand in front of class every day strong and confident. People are asking me for advice now!

DID YOU KNOW?



15,300 children have received lessons from volunteer tutors for six months or more since we first started the **Ready Steady Read Write Programme** in 2005.

Zimasa Katamzi was one of the first learners to benefit from the programme at Masiphumelele Library. Now finishing matric, she says, "The Wordworks programme was so much fun, and yet so helpful. Games were used to help improve our literacy, this also meant that we NEVER got bored. I'd recommend the programme to families."

DID YOU HEAR?

Our **Every Word Counts** team is growing! Faith Shabangu is our new EWC trainer and we have already benefitted enormously from her unique contributions to our team. Welcome Faith!



Good News

A collaborative print run has resulted in 16 organisations being able to purchase 12 402 quality children's books for an average of R21 per title! Wordworks, Biblionef, Blue Door ECE, Smartstart and Nal'ibali selected titles, sent out a call for interest to NGOs and worked with publishers to co-ordinate bulk printing orders. A great example of organisations working together with publishers to make beautiful books available to young children in six different languages!



DID YOU SEE?

You can help support early literacy organisations while on holiday! See this website for a list of NGOs near your next holiday destination. <https://www.packforapurpose.org>

PACK for a PURPOSE

Small Space. Little Effort. Big Impact.



For more information visit www.wordworks.org.za

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