

**Martha Khumalo**

My desire to have a holistic approach to life and education has inspired me to get involved in the programme of Wordworks, simply by their motive of empowering teachers and parents with tips for improving children's language development. My involvement with the ECD has made me stay on my toes to find solutions /ideas to improve the teaching and learning experience within the disadvantaged communities with the involvement of parents, and Wordworks has those solutions.

My passion for children is rewarding when I see them growing and being fluent in their languages. I have seen the impact of engagement with storytelling, games, fantasy play, art, music and playing in children's emotional and cognitive development. It is why I enjoy all the sections with Wordworks every month. I have learnt the importance of simple talking with children and listening to them and give them all the attention they want from you as a teacher /parent. Once you have created that platform with your children you have laid a good foundation of early learning.

Developing language skills is of absolute importance for young children. I have enjoyed the workshops we get to share with parents to make them aware that there are other fun and engaging activities children can do to expand their vocabulary and express themselves in meaningful ways.