



Do you have existing parenting and/or home visiting programmes, but want to include a stronger language and early learning component?

Do you want to learn more about why supporting the language and early literacy development of babies and young children is important, but don't have the time or resources to do this research yourself?

Are your ECD practitioners qualified, but wanting to improve their knowledge and skills to promote language and early literacy development in their work with children?

Would you like to receive training, materials and support to build your organisation's capacity to work with parents and caregivers in the field of young children's language and early literacy development?

Wordworks is inviting applications from organisations working in KwaZulu-Natal wanting to integrate our *Every word counts* programme into their existing work with those who care for babies and young children.

Every word counts is based on the latest research into language, early literacy and maths concepts for babies and young children. The programme:

- introduces parents to new ideas, linking these to their own situations and experience, and exploring ways to put these ideas into practice with their children
- helps parents to understand what is meant by early literacy and maths and demonstrate how language, literacy and maths activities can be integrated into daily routines
- emphasises the importance of loving, responsive parenting and shows the importance of talking with babies, toddlers and young children
- gives concrete examples of different kinds of play and demonstrate the importance of play for developing language, early literacy and maths
- encourages routines around activities such as storytelling and booksharing
- focuses on 'how to', as well as 'why' early learning activities are important
- gives many practical examples of how to support language, early literacy and maths in informal ways that are appropriate for babies and young children



Every word counts - families learning together



EVERY WORD COUNTS - Partnerships with Wordworks

Thanks to donor funding in 2016/17¹, Wordworks will offer training, support visits, refresher training and some materials at no cost to organisations that wish to partner with us. The following criteria need to be met by organisations wanting to partner with Wordworks:

- Be a registered NGO/non-profit
- Have a track-record of consistent quality service/programme provision for at least one year
- Have a collaborative mind-set and dedication to capacity building and team and community development
- Commit to running a pilot using the *EWC* programme and materials
- Have a programme manager/coordinator and a trainer who will train practitioners and implement the programme. This team will be required to:
 - attend a 3-day training of trainers workshop
 - train practitioners/home-visitors/community workers
 - ensure that resources are well organised and accessible to practitioners
 - mentor practitioners and provide ongoing guidance and support
 - keep accurate records of programme implementation and progress, and attendance at training workshops
- Cover the cost of travel and accommodation for staff who attend the training of trainers
- Share Wordworks values of humility, diversity, honesty and a commitment to learning.

EVERY WORD COUNTS - Training

Wordworks offers a 3-day training of trainers' workshop for NGO programme managers, programme coordinators and trainers, who in turn will train their organisation's home visitors/community workers/health visitors, play group facilitators and/or ECD practitioners. At the training-of-trainers workshop Wordworks trainers share information, ideas, activities and materials and build skills and confidence through a participative approach to learning.

EVERY WORD COUNTS - Monitoring and Evaluation

Wordworks will offer assistance to partners to integrate *Every word counts* monitoring tools into their existing monitoring systems. Partners need to:

- be willing to work with Wordworks to develop recordkeeping templates and to use templates for monitoring and outcome tracking
- contribute information, reflections and insights from implementation

EVERY WORD COUNTS Resources

The *Every word counts* programme includes the following resources. Each partner organisation will receive a basic pack to begin implementation. Further resources can then be purchased from Wordworks.

Resources to share with parents and caregivers:

- Six A5 colour books cover the following topics:
 - Talk, play and sing (birth to 2 years);
 - Talk and sing (3 to 5 years);
 - Play (3 to 5 years);

¹ We gratefully acknowledge funding and support from the Claude Leon Foundation and the Solon Foundation who are funding our work with partners in 2016/17.

- Share books (birth to 5 years);
- Draw and write (3 to 5 years);
- Enjoy maths everyday (3 to 5 years).

ECD Practitioners can use the *Every word counts* black and white A5 booklets, which contain the same information as the A5 colour books, for their own study purposes. Some books do not require any resources to put the ideas into practice, while other books give instructions on how to make resources. Pictures and key messages from the books are summarised in 'at home reminder sheets' for parents.

Resources for training home-visitors/community workers/ health visitors/ playgroup facilitators/ ECD practitioners:

- Guide for Trainers;
- Power point presentations with pictures from the books and short video clips showing good practice;
- A3 flip charts (designed to be used in workshops where no electricity and/or computer facilities are available);
- Workbook for practitioners.

The resources are available in English, isiXhosa, Afrikaans and isiZulu. Organisations can select any package of materials depending on their programme objectives and target groups.

Application Process

Please complete the Application form attached to this Letter of Interest and email to Lynn Stefano, lynn@wordworks.org.za . The deadline for applications is 30 June 2016.

Wordworks will host an Information day for key management and programme staff on 9th June 2016 at the Family Literacy Project in Underberg.

The 3-day training will take place on 30, 31 August and 1 September 2016 in KwaZulu-Natal. At least two and no more than three staff members should attend for the full training, and we encourage programme managers, coordinators and trainers.

If you do not meet the requirements outlined here but are interested in working towards them or you would like to discuss your application and specific needs please contact Lynn Stefano, *Every word counts* Programme Manager, on 021-4611366 or email lynn@wordworks.org.za.

About Wordworks

Wordworks supports early language and literacy learning among children from historically disadvantaged communities in South Africa. We seek to share our materials, know-how and enthusiasm with teachers, parents, volunteer tutors and home visitors in a respectful and inclusive way. At Wordworks, we are passionate about children and passionate about literacy. We believe that every child in South Africa deserves the chance to learn to read and write successfully. And we know that without that chance, many children will never reach their full potential.

For more information, visit www.wordworks.org.za