

OCTOBER 2015

Ready, steady...read and write!

Ready, steady...read and write is the new name of our Early Literacy Programme (ELP). The ELP, often referred to as our "Volunteer Programme", has been going for 10 years. It was the first of two programmes when Wordworks started up in 2005, and has been growing in strength, content and reach ever since.

In the last few years, two more programmes have been added to the Wordworks repertoire, all with a link to early literacy. In order to differentiate this programme from the others more clearly we have changed its name to *Ready, steady...read and write*, a name that also more closely reflects the positive energy of the programme.

Apart from the solid research and extensive materials on which this early literacy support programme is based, the core of its success lies with the volunteer Co-ordinators, and volunteer Tutors, who ensure that the programme continues to thrive in the various schools where it is implemented. The relationships that develop during the lessons are key to the programme and benefit both the child and the tutor.



In this newsletter we feature the story of one of our *Ready, steady...read and write* Co-ordinators, Gail Lindsay. (see "My Story").

Wordworks was at the Reading Association (RSA) conference in September with two presentations and a stall at the Family Literacy Day. Thank you to over 60 Wordworks volunteers who shared their time and experience with our visitors and played literacy games with the little ones. Our facebook album gives a sense of the excitement. <http://on.fb.me/1OgP3Vs>



Did you know?

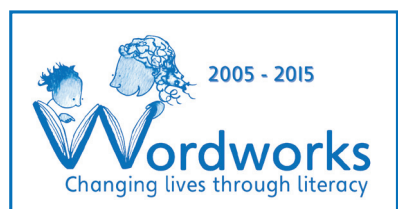
Some of our online letter and word games, free for download, have been translated into Afrikaans and isiXhosa and are available on our website! Please keep watching our facebook page for notifications as more translations are added.

<http://wordworks.org.za/letter-and-word-games>



STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

This year Wordworks celebrates 10 years in the early literacy arena! Thank you to all the wonderful people who have accompanied us on this journey!



My story

"What keeps me here is the passion I have to work with children and my love for the community."

I've been working in the community, since the age of 13, in sport, youth groups and as a counsellor. I was introduced to the lovely Wordworks parent programme when I was running an aftercare from home and then I attended training for the *Ready, steady ... read and write* Programme. After the first day of training, I knew I wanted to continue.

When I started as Co-ordinator at West End we had very little space. Volunteers did not have chairs, and were kneeling on the floor during sessions. Now, because of the results we are achieving with learners, the Principals Association is building us a Wordworks classroom!

I don't want my 22 Volunteers to scatter, so we support each other. After the Volunteers arrive for their classes, they use the hand sanitiser, we pray, talk to each other, and only then we fetch the kids. The day does not end on the school grounds, we like to stay connected on the group chat every day. We meet monthly to discuss issues that Volunteers write in their diaries. This makes us aware of changes in our kids so we can tell their teachers. Recently we all went together to join the library. It is a whole new environment!

"I don't work for any boss, I'm a volunteer...and how I enjoy it, because I am doing something positive with my life!"



Gail Lindsay is the Coordinator of the flourishing Ready, steady...read and write Programme at West End Primary School. Next year she will also assist Spineview Primary to set up their programme.

Top tip:

Babies learn when they play

The young girl is playing the easy hide-and-find game with the baby – she hides one of the baby's favourite toys under the blanket. When the baby finds it, the girl shows how pleased she is and praises her. The baby begins to problem solve as she tries to find the missing object – and enjoys the experience of success! She is learning that something continues to exist even when it can't be seen - she is learning about trust.



Did you see?

African Storybook project website:
<http://www.africanstorybook.org/>

This is an exciting site which offers – all for free – a range of folktales, contemporary African stories, games, songs, poems, riddles and rhymes. There is a step-by-step template where you can write and publish your own stories, translate stories into an African language or adapt them for your context and the reading level of your children. Print, use, enjoy!



For more information visit our website:
www.wordworks.org.za or keep up to date with our activities by following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wordworksSA.