

# Home-School Partnership Programme



## Who can use the HSP?

The HSP can be used by teachers or community workers to help parents, grandparents and caregivers to support learning in the home. Facilitators receive training from Wordworks and run the seven-week course of workshops for groups of about twenty-five parents, usually at a school or library.

### Programme goals

- Provide guidance, ideas and resources on how to support and stimulate learning at home, particularly early language and literacy learning
- Develop stronger relationships between homes and schools
- Promote understanding of the important role that parents have to play in their child's education
- Foster a culture of learning among families

### Target group



Facilitators: Teachers in the Foundation Phase and relevant community workers.



Participants: Parents, grandparents and carers of children aged between 4 and 7 years.

## How the Home-School Partnership Programme works

Facilitators receive training from Wordworks and receive a special guide with photocopable resources.

- The school or organisation invites parents to attend the seven-week programme.
- Facilitators deliver the programme through a series of weekly 2.5 hour workshops, for a group of 20–30 parents and carers.
- All parents who attend the course receive home learning kits, and on completion of the course, a certificate.

## Method and approach

Parents learn about:

- How children develop and learn
- Activities and methods to support early language and literacy learning at home
- How their attitude and approach can have a positive impact on their child's progress

All sessions are interactive and practical, and parents are provided with hand outs and take-home materials.

Session 1:  
Focus on Parents as their children's first teachers.



Session 2:  
Focus on language learning and how young children learn best.



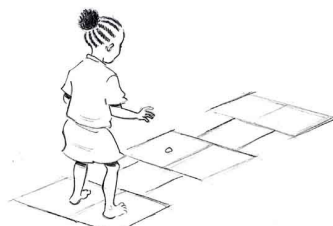
Session 3:  
Focus on drawing and have-a-go writing.



Session 4:  
Focus on strategies to support early reading and writing, including listening games.



Session 5:  
Focus on developing children's big and small muscles and knowledge of body in space.



Session 6:  
Focus on early maths using the world as our classroom



Session 7:  
Summing up the programme, celebration and certificates.

## Benefits

Parents benefit in many ways from the programme:

- They learn how to support their children's learning at home, particularly early reading, writing and maths.
- Their self-esteem and confidence grow as they experience success.
- They change their routines and develop positive parenting habits.
- Some parents are inspired to become volunteers at school, reading-club leaders or even ECD practitioners.

Children benefit:

- They receive important support and encouragement at home.
- Their reading and writing improves and they become more confident.

Facilitators benefit:

- Their knowledge about early language and literacy learning grows.
- Their skills as facilitators, leaders and speakers flourish.

"I liked the atmosphere it was friendly, welcoming and enjoyable. I'm looking at school through different eyes. The most important things I learnt were that education must be fun. Always make time for your children. When you have fun, times go quick."

Quote from a parent

"I feel great, having presented the course. It was an amazing experience to share with parents and to partner with parents. Just like it boosted their self-esteem, it also boosted mine. I've grown as an educator and I feel confident to present more workshops and empower more parents. I have so much to share."

Quote from a teacher-facilitator



## Resources

To begin a Home-School Partnership programme, there are standard resources that are available from Wordworks.

Materials for facilitators (these are provided with the training (R400):

- Two facilitators guides plus a set of photocopiable resources in four languages
- A communications toolkit including a CD
- Booklet for parents: Supporting learning at home (in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa or isiZulu)
- Booklet for parents: Body in Space

Parent pack (R50):

Each parent should receive a pack consisting of: an A5 journal, an A4 drawing book, a pen, set of wax crayons, scissors, a dice and a plastic envelope for easy storage.

Playing cards (R25):

Each parent receives 2 packs of high quality full colour animal playing cards with instruction booklet for 8 games in one of 4 languages: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa or isiZulu. These would be used as materials for a follow-up session.

## Training

Wordworks provides training for two facilitators from a school/organisation. The facilitators will be equipped to go back to their school/organisation and run the seven-session Home-School Partnership programme. The initial training for facilitators is two days, followed by a Refresher session after the course has been run.

Training costs will depend on whether facilitators attend a cluster training session in Cape Town or whether we set up a training session specifically for your organisation.

As from 2013, facilitators who attend the training and submit the necessary portfolio requirements will receive a UCT-Wordworks short course certificate for non-degree purposes (Level 5, NQF credits 3)



### *What to do next?*

Contact us for more information about our training packages.  
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