

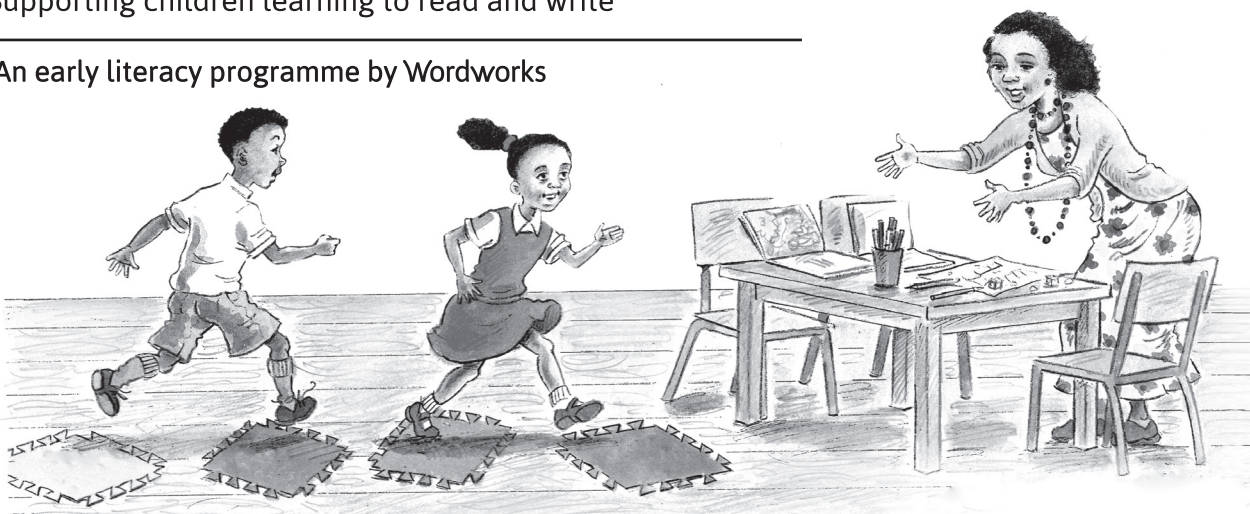
5-8 years



Ready Steady Read Write

Supporting children learning to read and write

An early literacy programme by Wordworks



Summary

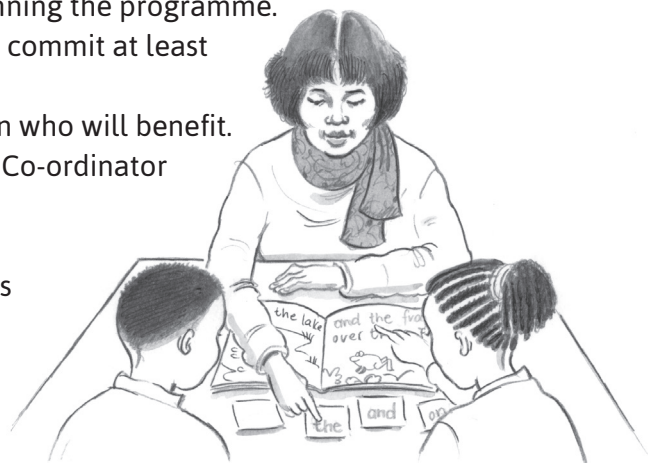
This programme can be used in Grade R to build language and literacy foundations and as an early intervention in Grade One. It can also be used to support Grade Two and Three children to learn to speak, read and write in a second language. Wordworks mentors site Co-ordinators who manage and support tutors to work with pairs of children, on a weekly basis, for at least six months. Many of the tutors are women who volunteer from local school communities. No qualifications are required but Tutors and Co-ordinators must attend Wordworks training. This programme is for tutors working with children aged 5-8 years.

Programme goals

- Provide targeted support to children in Grade R and One (Home Language) and Grades Two and Three (First Additional Language).
- Strengthen learners' language and early reading and writing.
- Equip tutors to provide structured support to children learning to read and write.
- Enable schools and organisations to address the needs of young children who begin school without important language and early literacy foundations.

How the programme works

- Individuals, schools or organisations apply to set up the programme.
- Wordworks provides three-day resourced-based training for two Co-ordinators from a school/organisation who will be responsible for starting and running the programme.
- The Co-ordinators recruit and train a team of tutors who commit at least two hours a week.
- Together with teachers, the Co-ordinators select children who will benefit.
- Tutors work directly with two children at a time, while a Co-ordinator provides support and monitors children's progress.
- Each session provides children with:
 - individual attention and support tailored to their needs
 - the chance to hear and use rich language
 - a fun and supportive learning environment



Overview of lessons

Each session follows the same four steps:

Step 1



Talking and doing

Step 2



Reading

Step 3



Writing and drawing

Step 4



Games to teach letter-sound
and word knowledge

Programme results

Children benefit

Children's language and literacy improves and their self-esteem and confidence grow as they experience success. They feel supported and are keen to learn.

Tutors benefit

Tutors develop the knowledge and skills to play a meaningful role in supporting literacy in their communities. They build relationships with young children and have a chance to 'give back'.

Schools and communities benefit

Teachers feel supported as learners who are at risk receive targeted support.

More children learn to read and write successfully and are able to fulfil their potential.

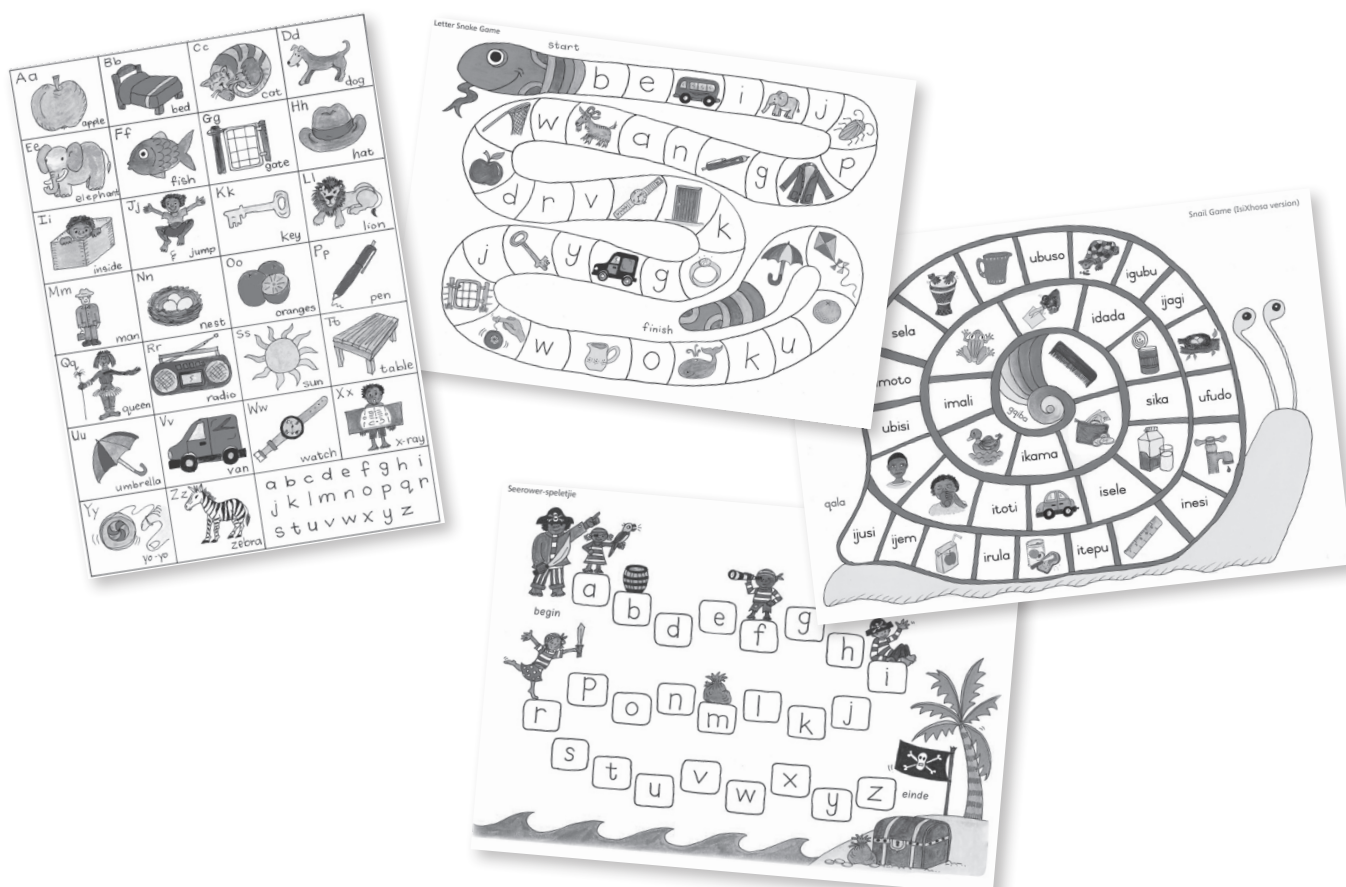
Resources

To begin this programme, there are standard resources that are available from Wordworks in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans.

The Co-ordinators need a file which includes:

- a training DVD for training Tutors
- a Co-ordinator's handbook and photocopiable resources
- an assessment kit and scoring guidelines
- tutor kits for Grade R and Grade One
- picture sequences and shared games

Each site needs a set of graded readers and storybooks to use for the lessons. Each tutor needs a kit which includes a manual, board games, and picture and word cards to cut out.



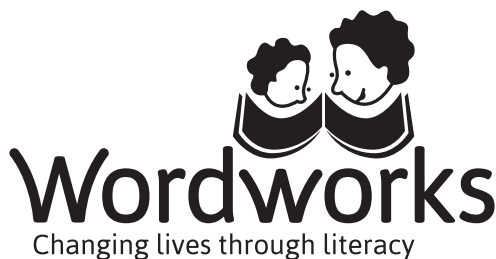
Are you interested in knowing more about Wordworks?

Wordworks is a South African non-profit organisation that focuses on early language and literacy development in the first eight years of children's lives. Since 2005 we have worked in under-resourced communities with those adults best positioned to impact on young children's language and literacy development – parents and caregivers, family and community members, home-visitors, early childhood development practitioners and Grade R teachers. We offer training, resourcing and on-site mentorship for four early language and literacy programmes:

- Through the Every Word Counts Programme, trainers are equipped to train home-visitors and ECD practitioners to strengthen the early learning component of their work with families and caregivers of babies and young children (birth to five years).
- Through the Home-School Partnerships Programme (HSPP), facilitators are trained to run a series of workshops over eight weeks to empower and inspire parents and caregivers of children aged 4 to 8 years to support informal learning at home.
- Through the Ready Steady Read Write Programme, co-ordinators are trained to set up and manage a team of tutors who support pairs of children for at least six months as they learn to read and write.
- Through the Stellar Programme, trainers are equipped to train and support Grade R teachers to strengthen their teaching of language and literacy.

In parallel to our training and capacity building, we develop, produce and distribute innovative, high quality, multilingual user-friendly teaching and learning materials to support early language and literacy learning. These materials are available to those who train with us, and selected resources can be downloaded from our website. Wordworks has also contributed to knowledge development in the field of early language and literacy learning through publications and presentations at conferences. We have developed tools that we share with partners to evaluate early literacy work, and we are increasingly building our capacity to gather and share evidence on the impact of Wordworks programmes in order to ensure our work is responsive to learning, and contributes to research on early language and literacy in the South African context.

Part of our ongoing work is to keep in contact with individuals, organisations, institutions and schools within our network and connect them with information, opportunities, campaigns and resources as well as with one another. We are working collaboratively to grow an informed, capable, resourced and motivated network of individuals, organisations, institutions and schools that promote the importance of, and work effectively for the improvement of children's early language and literacy, through their association with our programmes and materials.



Contact us for more information about our training packages.

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