

Wordworks report to the Western Cape Education Department • June 2018



Dear Colleagues

As we all look for sustainable, cost-effective and scalable solutions to the literacy crisis in South Africa, we hope that you will be inspired by the work reflected in this report.

From humble beginnings in 2006, the network of schools using Wordworks programmes has grown to 125, with many schools sustaining programmes over a number of years. We have worked hard to grow our reach, while remaining committed to quality and sustainability. Our strategy of scaling through partnerships continues to show benefits, with the majority of schools continuing to run programmes well beyond the year of training. We are proud to be partnering with districts and with other non-profit organisations who support the quality and growth of programmes in schools.

In the past year, we have seen a growing demand for our school-based programme for parents, and we continue to hear how transformative this programme is for schools and for teachers who are realising the potential of working together with families in the communities they serve. Our tutoring programme is demonstrating positive shifts in the early reading and writing of children who would otherwise not have had access to targeted support. Through feedback from schools and partners, and increasingly robust monitoring and evaluation, we are seeing how programmes to engage families and communities can have an impact on literacy outcomes in under-served communities.

In 2017, we invested in revising and strengthening the Stellar materials that were part of the provincial rollout of the Grade R teacher training in 2016. The new materials include more comprehensive activities for a full two-week cycle of teaching as well as a new Teacher's Guide which offers outlines and materials for six parent meetings, so that teachers can share what they do in Home Language lessons and resource parents to support learning at home.

We are excited about building stronger partnerships with Districts to grow and sustain this important work.

We hope you find this update useful and look forward to your feedback.

Very best wishes,



Dr Shelley O'Carroll
Director

Cover photographs

Top: Wordworks trained 117 new HSP teacher-facilitators in the Metro over three Saturdays this year. Photo taken at Vista Nova School.

Middle left: Asanda Mpahla, from Wordworks, conducting HSP teacher-facilitator training in the Metro, March 2018. Resource-based training is offered in three languages.

Engaging with Wordworks

We receive daily queries from people interested in Wordworks programmes and materials. Here are some ways to find out more.

Wordworks materials

Download free materials from our website or buy early literacy materials.

- Download free materials: <http://www.wordworks.org.za/category/resources/>
- Download a catalogue and order form: <http://www.wordworks.org.za/category/buy-resources/>
- Contact edeline@wordworks.org.za to email you a catalogue.

Wordworks programmes info session

- Schools interested in starting Wordworks programmes in 2019 will need to attend the information session to find out more about the programmes and application process.
- Wednesday 17 October: 2 pm – 4.30 pm
- Also open to district officials, donors and NGOs.
- Contact edeline@wordworks.org.za to book a place.

Wordworks workshops – open to all

We are offering public workshops in Cape Town so more people can learn to use selected Wordworks resources. See the information about these three different workshops below. Check out this link for details: <http://www.wordworks.org.za/category/workshops-on-resources/>

Workshops: Big Game Box

Wordworks early literacy games are fun and effective: useful in Foundation Phase classrooms, after-care facilities, learning support sessions and extra lessons. Our Big Game Box includes a manual and game boards, dice and counters needed to play over 20 games.

Workshop (per person) R250
Big Game Box R360

Workshops: Stellar Update Pack

Stellar has been updated! The newly-revised Stellar Teacher's Guides for each story contain comprehensive activities for a two-week cycle of teaching.

Workshop (per person) R150
Stellar Update Pack R315
Stellar Teacher's Box (incl. classroom resources) R850

Workshops: Stellar Teacher's Guide for Parent Meetings

Stellar has a brand-new Teacher's Guide for Parent Meetings, so that teachers can resource Grade R parents to support learning at home.

Workshop (per person) R65
Stellar Teacher's Guide for Parent Meetings R35

Middle right: Learning moment: one of the RSRW tutors engaging beautifully with children at West End Primary.

Bottom left: Two enthusiastic fathers show off the little books they made. HSP parent workshop, Capricorn Primary.

Bottom right: Ready Steady! Brand-new tutor all ready for her first lesson. RSRW programme, Ysterplaat Junior Primary School.

Early literacy programmes by Wordworks



Every Word Counts

Supporting the learning of babies and young children

This programme can be used across a range of community settings to introduce those who care for and work with babies and young children to new knowledge about early learning and practical ideas for supporting the development of language, early literacy and maths concepts, from birth to 5 years of age.

Wordworks trains trainers and equips organisations to integrate the programme and resources into their work with parents and caregivers through home visits or parenting group sessions. ECD practitioners and playgroup facilitators can use what they learn through the programme in their daily interactions with children in crèches and playgroups.

This programme is for parents and caregivers of babies and children up to 5 years of age.



Home-School Partnerships

Supporting informal learning at home in the early years

This programme can be used to facilitate a learning space for parents in which to share knowledge and ideas about children's language and early literacy development. The programme builds co-operation between families and schools, and encourages parents in their role as their children's first teachers.

Wordworks trains, provides resources and mentors teachers to facilitate weekly workshops for groups of parents of children aged four to eight years. The workshops run for 2½ hours a week over eight weeks.

This programme is for parents and caregivers of children aged 4–8 years.



Stellar Home Language

Supporting early language and literacy teaching in Grade R

This programme can be used to provide resource-based training to strengthen the teaching of language and emergent literacy in Grade R.

Wordworks trains and mentors Grade R teachers and STELLAR trainers. The programme offers 5-day training and monthly workshops for Grade R teachers to support their classroom practice within a 2-week story-based framework. The programme aims to give opportunities for reflection and planning, and deepens teachers' understanding of the important role they play in building early language and literacy.

This programme is for Grade R teachers working with children aged 5–6 years.



Ready Steady Read Write

Supporting children learning to read and write

This programme can be used in Grade R to build a solid language and literacy foundation 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 trains and 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 from local school communities who volunteer. No qualifications are required.

This programme is for tutors working with children aged 5–8 years.



We are delighted to hear from so many schools that teachers and children continue to love the Stellar stories and that the two-week story-based teaching cycle is working well in classrooms.



Revisions

While Districts have been busy with R-Maths training, we have used this time constructively to revise the Stellar materials! Our revisions have drawn on feedback from the field, particularly our work with the Curriculum Advisors and the Lead Teachers in the ELIT provincial rollout in 2016 – and for this rich source of experience we are deeply grateful.



Stellar materials workshop at Molo Mhlaba School.

So what has changed?

The story packs and *Teacher's Guides* still have the warm, practical and supportive approach that teachers have loved. Spot, Ali, Baby Bird and all the other favourite stories are still there! The revisions include:

- New content, so that the two-week cycle includes whole class and rotation activities every day
- Integration of fifteen minutes of phonological awareness and letter-sound activities into each day's programme (in place of a separate *Letters and Sounds Manual*). Two new letters are introduced for each story instead of one.
- More listening activities and additional shared

- writing and reading activities
- A brand-new *Teacher's guide for parent meetings*, to assist teachers to reach out to families as partners in early learning
- Revised activities
- Improved translations.

Training materials

We have repackaged the *ELIT* five-day training manual so that it aligns with the new *Teacher's Guides*. The training content is presented in a flexible, modularised format comprising four *Workbooks for Teachers* and accompanying *Guides for Facilitators*:

- 1 An Introduction to the Stellar Home Language Programme
- 2 Listening and speaking
- 3 Emergent reading and writing
- 4 Phonological awareness and letter-sound knowledge.



Stellar's new look is easy to recognise.

Future resourcing and capacity building

Looking ahead, we know that there is a need to offer emergent literacy training for new Grade R teachers coming into schools, and a need to continue to build the capacity of teachers who trained in 2016. This is what Wordworks can contribute to this effort:

- Provide district officials and HODs with a 1½ day Stellar refresher and orientation to the new materials. We will not charge for our facilitation, but Districts will need to offer a venue and purchase materials. Contact us on info@wordworks.org.za to make arrangements.
- Wordworks will offer the revised and extended Stellar materials at discounted prices to all WCED schools.
- Wordworks will offer orientation workshops to interested Grade R teachers who wish to buy the updated Stellar materials. (See page 2 for details about the first of these workshops.)

UPDATE: Home–School Partnerships

Planning meeting

Over 160 established teacher–facilitators attended one of four planning meetings held in the Metro in January 2018. In the photo below, facilitators received updates to their programme materials at Zwaanswyk Academy in Retreat.



New teacher–facilitator training

A total of 131 new teacher–facilitators were trained to facilitate the HSP programme at Western Cape schools this year. While most training still takes place in the Metro, the picture shows training conducted in the West Coast District for the second year running.



Parent workshops



HSP parent session at Entshona Primary School.



Parents get stuck into their Workbooks at Lammeroes Pre-School in Bonnievale.

There are 97 parent programmes being run by 351 teacher–facilitators at schools and centres in the Western Cape this year.

Parent graduations

Proud parents at Eldene Primary School graduation. A total of 1 081 parents graduated from the HSP Programme in the Western Cape last year and we anticipate a similar number in 2018.



Facilitator clusters

‘Refresh and Reflect’ clusters are held in the third term each year. This 2017 photo (*below left*) shows facilitators discussing the kinds of story books that parents should be encouraged to read with their children.



Portfolios

New HSP teacher–facilitators submit portfolios of evidence to Wordworks to reflect on their facilitation of the parent programme and to receive a certificate. The teacher–facilitator training is registered as a short course at UCT. This year, 59 teachers have applied to submit individual portfolios for this short course. (*Photo above right*.)

Facilitator graduation

New HSP teacher–facilitators attend a certification ceremony in the fourth term each year to celebrate their completion of the programme for the first time. This photograph shows the 2017 ceremony, where 115 teachers from 34 schools received facilitator’s certificates. This year we anticipate 149 teachers from 62 schools will graduate.



UPDATE: Ready Steady Read Write

Assessing and selecting learners

RSRW learner assessments are done at the start of the year to establish a base line and to select children in need of additional support. Here we see assessments at Alpine Primary School.



Training tutors

RSRW tutor training is held three times a year in the Western Cape. The photo shows a group of new tutors training at West End Primary School. So far, we have trained 71 RSRW tutors this year.



Tutors with children at sites

Tutors work with pairs of children for an hour a week. This photo shows a tutor session at Laurie Hugo Primary School. Tutor programmes are running at 73 sites in the Western Cape this year.



Training co-ordinators

There is an intake of new RSRW site coordinators each year. This year, 14 coordinators attended a three-day training in April. These co-ordinators were trained to set up and manage sites at eight new schools.



Cluster meetings

RSRW tutor teams attend refresher clusters each year: 138 people participated this year. The focus was on children's writing. These beaming tutors won a Ready Steady quiz at their cluster in Grassy Park.



Mid-year assessments

Learner assessments take place mid-year to establish if children need to join the programme or stay on it for the rest of the year. This assessment took place at Ysterplaat Junior Primary School. (Photo below left.)

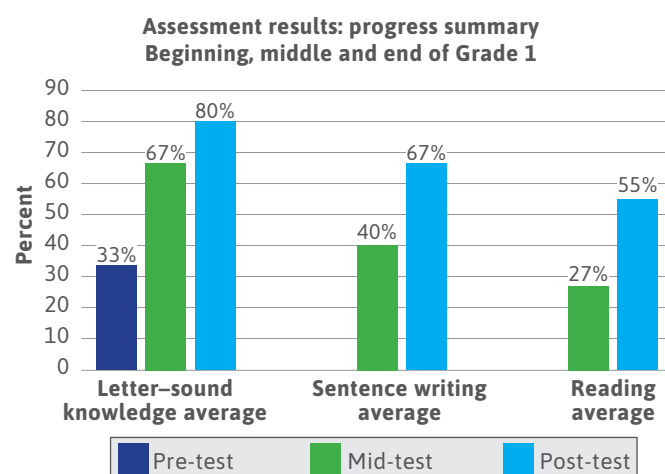


Tutoring children

Happy High 5s at an RSRW lesson at Pelican Park Primary School – tutoring continues throughout the year. (Photo above right.)

Summary graph results

All children who participate in the Ready Steady tutoring programme are assessed at the beginning, middle and end of Grade 1. Assessment results indicate progress on measures of letter-sound knowledge, word reading and writing.



Schools running HSP and RSRW in 2018

Metro Central Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Arcadia Primary School	HSP 2017 (in collaboration with MCED Learning Support), 2018
Bokmakierie Primary School	RSRW 2016–present
Bonga Lower Primary School	HSP 2012, 2017–present
Boundary Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with MCED Learning Support)
Bramble Way Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Cypress Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Ellerton Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Garlandale Primary School	RSRW 2016–present
Hangberg Pre-Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2015–present (both programmes run in collaboration with Hangberg Educational Trust)
Hazendal Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Heideveld Primary School	RSRW 2015–present (in collaboration with GCU Academy)
HJ Kroneberg Junior Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Hout Bay Educare Centre	RSRW 2013–present
Kenmere Primary School	HSP 2012–present
Kronendal Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
Noluthando Pre-Primary School	RSRW 2016–present
Parkfields Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with MCED Learning Support)
Sentinel Primary School	HSP 2007, 2009–present; RSRW 2012–present (in collaboration with Hangberg Educational Trust)
Silvertree NWMHF Pre-Primary School	HSP 2017–present
St Agnes' Primary School	HSP 2011–present
St John's RC Primary School	HSP 2018
St Theresa RC Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with GCU Academy)
Starling Primary School	HSP 2012–2013, 2017–present
Vanguard Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with GCU Academy)
Welcome Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with GCU Academy)
Windermere Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with MCED Learning Support)
Wingfield Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with MCED Learning Support)
Woodlands Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with GCU Academy)

Metro East Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Chumisa Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2016–present (RSRW run in collaboration with Thope Foundation)
Happy Valley Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018 (both programmes run in collaboration with Mellon Educate)
Intshayelelo Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2017–present
Kuyasa Primary School	HSP 2017–present (in collaboration with Mellon Educate)
Noluthando School for The Deaf	HSP 2018
Sobambisana Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with Mellon Educate)
Sosebenza Primary School	HSP 2018 (in collaboration with Mellon Educate)
Ummangaliso Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018 (in collaboration with Mellon Educate)

Eden & Central Karoo Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Kranshoek Primêre Skool	RSRW 2017–present (in collaboration with Bitou 10 Foundation)

Metro North Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Belhar Primary School	HSP 2016–present; RSRW 2018
Eldene Primary School	HSP 2018
Gardenia Primary School	HSP 2016–present
Norwood Central Primary School	HSP 2017–present
St Augustine's RC Primary School Parow	HSP 2016–present
The Valley Primary School	RSRW 2013–present (in collaboration with Capespan We Care)
Ubunye Educare Centre	HSP 2017–present
Valhalla Primary School	HSP 2014–present
Welwitschia Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2018
Ysterplaat Junior Primary School	RSRW 2018

Metro South Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Alpine Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
AZ Berman Primary School	HSP 2007, 2015, 2018; RSRW 2015–present
Bay Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
Buck Road Primary School	HSP 2011–present; RSRW 2011–present
Capricorn Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2005–present
Constantia Primary School	RSRW 2014–present
Cornflower Primary School	HSP 2008–2010, 2014–present; RSRW 2014–2015, 2018
Eastville Primary School	HSP 2014–2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2013–present
Entshona Primary School	HSP 2018
Fairview Primary School	HSP 2012–present
Floreat Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018
Grassy Park EC Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
Hazeldene Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
Highlands Primary School	RSRW 2018
Hillwood Primary School	HSP 2012–2014, 2016–present
Hyde Park Primary School	HSP 2018
iThemba Labantu Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both programmes run in collaboration with iThemba Labantu Lutheran Community Centre)
Jamaica Way Primary School	RSRW 2018
Kannemeyer Primary School	HSP 2010–2013, 2018
Kleinberg Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
Lantana Primary School	HSP 2008–present; RSRW 2011–present
Levana Primary School	HSP 2015–present
Lotus River Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
Marine Primary School	HSP 2013, 2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2005–present
Merrydale Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
Mitchell Heights Primary School	HSP 2014–2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2014–present
Mitchell's Plain School of Skills	HSP 2017–present
Montagu Drive Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2012–present
Montagu's Gift Primary School	HSP 2015, 2018; RSRW 2015–present
Muizenberg Junior School	RSRW 2013–2015, 2017–present
Ottery Road Methodist Primary School	HSP 2013–2014, 2018; RSRW 2013–present
Parkwood Primary School	HSP 2013–present
Pelican Park Primary School	HSP 2011–present; RSRW 2013–present
Plantation Primary School	HSP 2012–2014, 2018; RSRW 2013–present
Portland Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2015–2016, 2018
Prince George Primary School	HSP 2012, 2014–present; RSRW 2010–present
Sid G Rule Primary School	HSP 2017–present
Simon van der Stel Primary School	RSRW 2013–present
Simon's Town School	HSP 2018
Southfield Primary School	HSP 2013–2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2013–present
Spine View Primary School	RSRW 2014–present

Springdale Primary School	HSP 2008, 2014–present; RSRW 2016–present
Square Hill Primary School	HSP 2012–present; RSRW 2013–present
St Augustine's RC Primary School Wittebome	HSP 2013–present
St James' RC Primary School	HSP 2006, 2009–present; RSRW 2005
St Mary's RC Primary School Retreat	HSP 2012–2016, 2018; RSRW 2011–present
Star of the Sea Convent Primary School	RSRW 2013–2016, 2018
Stephen Road Primary School	HSP 2012–2014, 2016, 2018; RSRW 2011–present
Thomas Wildschutt Junior Primary School	HSP 2007, 2012–present; RSRW 2013–present
Vukani Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (RSRW in collaboration with Beautiful Gate SA)
West End Primary School	HSP 2007, 2009, 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
Westville Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2013–present
Woodville Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
Yeshua Christian Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
Zanemfundo Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with Beautiful Gate SA)
Zwaanswyk Academy	HSP 2015–present

West Coast Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Ebenhaeser Primêre Skool	HSP 2018
Elizabethfontein Moravian Primêre Skool	RSRW 2016–present
Karookop Primêre Skool	HSP 2018
Kleinrivier VGK Laerskool	HSP 2018
Koekenaap VGK Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present
Laurie Hugo Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both programmes run in collaboration with Bethesda Community Centre)
Lutzville VGK Primêre Skool	HSP 2018
Nieuwoudt Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present
Nuwerus Hoërskool	HSP 2017–present
St Boniface RK Primêre Skool	HSP 2018
Uitkyk Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present
Vooruitsig Primêre Skool	RSRW 2016–present (in collaboration with Darling Outreach Foundation)
Vredendal-Noord Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present

Cape Winelands Education District

School	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Anne Fredericks Pre Primary	HSP 2018
Bonnie People Projects	HSP 2014–2016, 2018
Kapteintjies Dagsorg	HSP 2015, 2018
Lammeroes Kleuterskool	HSP 2014–present
Precious Jewels	HSP 2015–2016, 2018
Teletubbies	HSP 2015, 2018
Tinkie Winkie ECD	HSP 2018
Warmbron Pre Primêr	HSP 2015–2016, 2018

All the HSP Programmes run in the Cape Winelands Education District are run in collaboration with Langeberg ECD Forum & Rotary Breede River.



Wordworks AT A GLANCE 2017

WE PARTNERED WITH

**ECD CENTRES, SCHOOLS,
ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

that received training, resources and ongoing support to use our programmes in their communities.

WE CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE

 **1 330** People received our quarterly newsletter

 **9 894** Unique website visitors (85% new this year)

 **1 705** Facebook page likes

 **6 198** Facebook shares, likes and comments

WE OFFERED TRAINING COURSES TO

Every Word Counts

37

Trainers

Ready Steady Read Write

198

Tutors

Home-School Partnerships


167


Course
Facilitators

53

Site
Co-ordinators

WE SHARED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

 **2 831** People in WordNetworks received sponsored materials to the value of **R483 926**

 **119** People bought materials to the value of **R343 341**

 **12 950** Page views of materials on our website

 **1 224** People downloaded our content on the Careup App

By working together with our partners in

WordNetworks



55 organisations and **308** ECD centres and schools ran early language and literacy programmes.

245 Home-School Partnerships Facilitators from 67 sites worked with

1 081 PARENTS
and CAREGIVERS

11 Stellar Trainers from 7 partner organisations worked with

299 GRADE R TEACHERS
at **185** SCHOOLS

76 Every Word Counts Trainers from 35 partner organisations worked with over

1 300 ECD PRACTITIONERS
and HOME VISITORS

119 Ready Steady Read Write Co-ordinators of 86 sites worked with

639 RSRW TUTORS



Thanks to the hard work of the network,
3 865 FAMILIES and
24 559 YOUNG CHILDREN
benefitted from Wordworks' programmes.



This data is mostly but not exclusively Western Cape-based.

We are proud to have partnered with the following organisations that support and use Wordworks school-focused programmes in the Western Cape.

BATHESDA COMMUNITY CENTRE



We acknowledge productive collaboration with Shine and Help2Read who also work to improve language and literacy in WCED schools.

Our grateful thanks to our donors who believe in and support this important work.



The Davies
Foundation

The Fynbos
Foundation

Hout Bay and
Llandudno
Community
Education Trust

