

Cathy Gush

I heard about Wordworks some years ago via a colleague that had attended a conference and heard the Director, Shelley O'Carroll, speak. I was working as the director of an ECD NGO at the time, and was delighted to find that there was an organisation that paid such specific attention to developing programmes aimed at the literacy development of young children. The fact that the materials are usually available in different languages, that they are easy to access and utilise, and that good training support is offered, just makes it that much better. The kind and sharing spirit of the staff is a bonus!

I remain involved with implementing a wide range of the Wordworks programmes because the materials and the approaches are so well thought-out and just hit the mark with specific target groups, whether it be babies and toddlers, Grade Rs or Foundation Phase learners. And the relationship I have built up with Wordworks has been a good one, in spite of being located in a different province.

I have learned:

- That early means early
- That it's important to take time over embedding new knowledge and new ways of doing things (with parents, teachers, etc) and to pay attention to detail
- That letter-sound knowledge is hugely important!
- That a balanced approach to literacy development is important