

Esther Cupido

I think that Wordworks is really an amazing organisation. I heard about the organisation on a workshop I did with the Education Department and did some research on the internet. What I read was just in line with some of my goals I had for our centre. I was very interested in the Home-School Partnership Programme, as I wanted to bridge the gap between the children's home and school. I wanted to build a relationship with the parents and make them feel part of our centre and their children's education. The eight week programme is an excellent tool to build such relationships.

Currently all my teachers and our administrator are trained to run the programme and they see the value it adds to the foundation we are building for the children. If parents are involved it makes teaching easier and more effective. Seeing the team work of the Wordworks team has made our team stronger.

We have become a team. All of us are able to facilitate any part of the programme and we fill in for each other by adding our own life experiences. The programme has humbled me. We take many things for granted in life and in the programme I saw that coming back to basics is really what our children need more. They need our time, attention and love. This is simply illustrated by the simple everyday life learning methods the programme teaches us. (We know it well but have pushed it on the back burner). Making time to talk to our children, doing little things with them and spending quality time with them is very important.

I can also see the positive impact the programme has on our children. This is far more precious and it is something money can't buy. To the parents it is a great tool as many of our parents are not very educated and they feel that they cannot assist their children at home (some even feel that it is only the teacher's duty to teach their children). This stigma is changed during the programme and parents are more equipped and comfortable to assist their children. This is how the parents become interested in their child's education and it also helps us to build very good relationships with the parents.