

**Sandra Hamman**

**Wordworks Board Member and Learning Support Teacher**

I am passionate about supporting young children to achieve their potential, and my involvement with Wordworks was a gift to the learners that I served. It empowered me to view my learners with a language barrier differently! I was not bound by language assessments that the children were unable to relate to. Wordworks has a language that they are able to relate to.

The children learn through a simple road map: a discussion about the title, followed by reading a text that is connected to their context, expressing their understanding in writing and finally with a game to end the session. This allows children to take ownership of their learning, getting the confidence which empowers them to express themselves. They now begin to own the language because of the experience they have gone through with the story. Children often take the story home which makes the learning circle complete with the parent/home involvement.

My experience with learners that receive the key to language through appropriate connections is that they are able to communicate confidently and intelligently. The model allows one to make observations of the children's progress in a non-threatening and fun manner.