

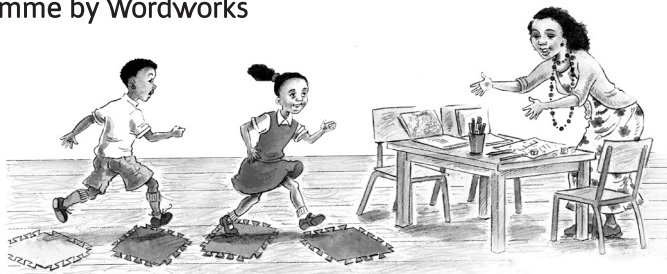
5–8 years



# Ready Steady Read Write

Supporting children learning to read and write

An early literacy programme by Wordworks



## Summary

The Ready Steady Read Write programme is for tutors working with children aged 5–8 years. The programme can be used in Grade R to build language and literacy foundations and as an early literacy intervention in Grade One. It can also be used to support Grade Two and Three children to learn to speak, read and write in an additional language. Site Co-ordinators manage and support tutors to work with pairs of children, on a weekly basis during the school morning, 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 resource-based training.

## Programme goals

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

## How the programme works

- Education districts, schools or organisations apply to train to use the programme.
- Wordworks provides a three-day resource-based training for two Co-ordinators (and where possible the Learning Support Teacher), from the 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, on a weekday morning, for 6 months or more.
- Together with teachers, the Co-ordinators assess and select children who will benefit from the programme.
- Tutors work directly with two children at a time during the morning at the school, 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.
- The Co-ordinator sends Wordworks learner assessment results mid- and end-year and Wordworks provides the school with an analytical report.

## Overview of lessons

Each lesson follows the same four steps. Steps one to three focus on the graded reader or storybook chosen for the lesson.

### Grade R

*The Grade R programme is less formal, runs from the second half of the year and each lesson is 40 minutes.*

#### Step 1



Talking and doing  
(5–10 minutes)

#### Step 2



Reading  
(10 minutes)

#### Step 3



Writing and drawing  
(10–15 minutes)

#### Step 4



Games to build listening skills  
and letter knowledge  
(10 minutes)

### Grade 1

*The Grade 1 programme starts at the beginning of the year and each lesson is one hour.*

#### Step 1



Talking and doing  
(5–10 minutes)

#### Step 2



Reading  
(5–10 minutes)

#### Step 3



Writing and drawing  
(15–20 minutes)

#### Step 4



Games to teach letter-sound  
and word knowledge  
(15–20 minutes)

## 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.

### The Education Department benefits

School Managers and Department Officials have access to a tried and tested, low-cost tutor programme, focused on early language and literacy, with training and resource materials, implementation models and M & E tools.

## Programme resources

To begin this programme, the following resources are available from Wordworks in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans.

Each site needs a DVD to train new Tutors, as well as a set of graded readers and storybooks, sequence pictures and shared games to use for the lessons.

Each Co-ordinator needs a Co-ordinator's manual, a Tutor Kit and an Assessment Kit.

Each Tutor needs a Kit which includes a manual, board games, and picture and word cards.



# 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 to Grade 3 teachers.

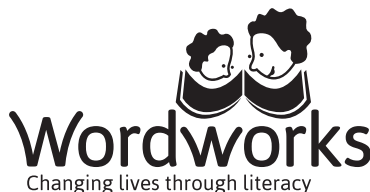
We are working collaboratively to grow an informed, capable, resourced and motivated network of schools, organisations and institutions that promote the importance of, and work effectively for the improvement of, children's early language and literacy, through their association with our programmes and materials.

Wordworks offers training, resources and support for partners who wish to use our early language and literacy programmes in their own networks. Programmes are sustained through ongoing relationships with Wordworks, including refresher training and events, input and guidance, access to resources and opportunities, sharing of learning and support for programme monitoring and evaluation.

Wordworks has developed five Early Language and Literacy Programmes:

- Every Word Counts Programme (0–5 years): Trainers are equipped to train and resource
  - » Home visitors and community workers to strengthen the early language and literacy component of their work with families and caregivers.
  - » ECD practitioners to build language-rich, interactive learning environments and to reach out to parents to support language and literacy learning at home.
- Little Stars Programme: (4–5 years): Trainers are equipped to train and resource pre-Grade R teachers and to strengthen their teaching of language and early literacy through a series of carefully-scaffolded, story-based teaching cycles.
- Stellar Home Language Programme (5–6 years): Trainers are equipped to train and resource Grade R teachers to strengthen their teaching of language and early literacy through a series of carefully-scaffolded, story-based teaching cycles, and to reach out to parents to support language learning at home.
- Home–School Partnerships Programme (5–8 years): Foundation Phase and Learning Support Teachers are equipped to facilitate eight weekly workshops of 2½ hours each, to empower and inspire parents to support informal learning at home.
- Ready Steady Read Write Programme (5–8 years): Co-ordinators and Learning Support Teachers are equipped to set up, train and manage a team of tutors who work weekly with pairs of children for at least six months as they learn to read and write.

Wordworks contributes to language and early literacy learning through the ongoing development and improvement of our programmes and materials, through publications, presentations at conferences and through a wide range of practical open-access resources, drawn from and tested in our programmes. These are made available to the public as free downloads on our website and are also for sale through our catalogue and public workshops, conferences and events.



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Contact us for more information about our training packages.

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