

# Annual Report 2019



**We see a world where young children are supported to develop early language and literacy so that their lives are enriched and they grow to their full potential.**



Wordworks focuses on early language and literacy development in the first eight years of children's lives. We share knowledge and collaborate with those who care for, work with and advocate for young children so that they recognise the importance of early language and literacy and support its development in homes, schools and community settings.



# Message from the Director

Annual report messages are always a good opportunity to pause in our pursuit of plans and goals for the future, and look back and take stock. In the South African context, where millions of young children do not have opportunities to learn, the extent of the need can be overwhelming. At times, it seems as if we can never do enough, so it is good to look back and see what has been achieved.

Our work in 2019 continued to be characterised by strong partnerships with schools and organisations, and growing reach of important work to support early language and literacy development. 2019 highlights included a prestigious award in recognition of our contribution to supporting schools to reach out to parents of young children. We were proud to receive this award on behalf of the schools, teachers, and education officials who have championed opportunities for parents to become more involved in their children's learning.

Further highlights of our 2019 work included the completion of a process of reversioning our programme for the birth to five age group, and strengthening the component for teachers of young children. We are grateful for our partnerships with NGOs whose work has contributed to the way our ECD programmes have evolved, and we are excited about the foundations that have been laid, and new projects for this age group that include a strong research focus.

From an organisational perspective, 2019 was one of our most challenging years with regard to funding. Our financial sustainability was at risk due to a combination of the timing of grants ending and being renewed, a shift in strategy from some of our longstanding donors, and a difficult economic climate. We weathered the storm, and ended the year in a much stronger financial position, with good prospects for the years ahead. We are taking our learning from this period into our future planning, and will continue to build towards a financial position that is robust and sustainable.

Our year was marked by a move to a new office, and a new phase in our journey. While packing for our move and looking back on our years in our previous office, it was also a time to reflect on how our team has grown and changed, how individuals have grown, and the way that we have transitioned roles and positions. The strength of the organisation is our team, and I could not be more proud.



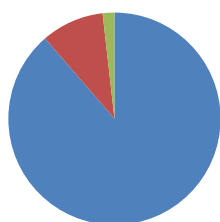
**Dr Shelley O'Carroll**  
Wordworks Director



# Financial Report - Year ending December 2019

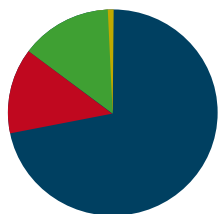
	2019	2018
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants & donations	7 505 047,00	7 887 348,00
Sale of resources & services rendered	809 139,00	489 604,00
Interest	151 638,00	382 927,00
	<b>R 8 465 824,00</b>	<b>R 8 759 879,00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Training & capacity building	6 154 817,00	6 606 980,00
Materials & resources	1 107 301,00	1 221 072,00
Overheads and office costs	1 191 239,00	1 156 164,00
Bursary fund	71 168,00	168 000,00
	<b>R 8 524 525,00</b>	<b>R 9 152 216,00</b>

\* R289 634 of income received in advance deferred to 2020 expenses



**Income 2019**

- Grants & donations 89%
- Sales of resources & services rendered 9%
- Interest 2%



**Expenditure 2019**

- Training & capacity building 72%
- Materials & resources 13%
- Overheads and office costs 14%
- Bursary fund 1%

**Our grateful thanks to our donors and partners who believe in and support our work**



Solon Foundation • Davies Foundation • Fynbos Foundation • Sullivan and Mary-Anne O'Carroll  
Hout Bay and Llandudno Education Trust

**Thank you to the individuals who contributed to the Wordworks Storybook Fund.**



## Programmes in action

### Every Word Counts

Supporting the learning of babies and young children

Our **Every Word Counts Programme** gives parents and caregivers of babies and young children practical ideas to build language and encourage learning in a loving, supportive way.



Parent workshop in Mbazwana, KZN



Literacy Week in Bizana with the Nelson Mandela Institute



Langeberg ECD Forum, Winelands



Parent workshop and graduation with Siyakhula, Langa



The Kusasa Project parent workshop and graduation, Franschhoek



Western Cape ECD centres graduation

### Ready Steady Read Write

Supporting children learning to read and write

Our **Ready Steady Read Write Programme** equips tutors to assist young children in schools as they learn to read and write.



The Ready Steady Read Write Team



Newly trained co-ordinators from the Western Cape



A Masinyusane tutor with Grade one children – Eastern Cape



Children with their Book Dash books at their year end celebration



Honouring long service of tutors and co-ordinators



Annual co-ordinators' Tea



## Home-School Partnerships

Supporting informal learning at home in the early years

Our [Home-School Partnerships Programme](#) empowers parents to support learning in the home, through training teachers as facilitators.



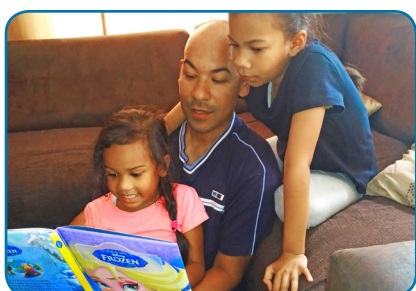
New Teacher-facilitator training for the Western Cape Metro



HSP training and support team



One of eight workshops with parents at a school



HSP in practice at home



West Coast and Loeriesfontein training group



Teacher-facilitator graduation event

## Stellar Home Language

Supporting early language and literacy teaching in Grade R

Our [Stellar Home Language Programme](#) provides training and resources for teachers to strengthen literacy teaching in Grade R.



*Tortoise finds his home* – training with stories



District training for Grade R teachers – modelling story resources



District training for Grade R teachers – sharing on the mat



District training for Grade R teachers – emergent writing



Training for Foundation Phase Subject Advisors in the Western Cape



Time for a Stellar Big Book – *Ali and the Paint*

# Wordworks Reach in 2019



**43 774** CHILDREN BENEFITTED from Wordworks EARLY LANGUAGE and LITERACY PROGRAMMES run by partners in WordNetworks



**350** Home-School Partnerships teacher-facilitators from **107** sites worked with **1 397** parents and caregivers

**8** Stellar & Little Stars trainers from **6** organisations worked with **808** teachers and advisors from **8** education districts and **435** schools and ECD centres






**45** Every Word Counts trainers from **18** organisations and centres worked with **535** ECD practitioners, **37** speech therapy students, **38** home visitors, **646** community workers, **52** facilitators and **1 589** parents

**134** Ready Steady Read Write co-ordinators from **96** sites worked with **640** tutors

To support our partners to implement quality programmes, Wordworks:

- ✓ Offered more than **400 HOURS** of TRAINING to **567** new programme roleplayers
- ✓ Sponsored MATERIALS to the value of **R437 916**
- ✓ Hosted **42** PROGRAMME WORKSHOPS for our partners
- ✓ Provided more than **600 HOURS** of MENTORING to partners
- ✓ Collected, analysed and shared Programme Data
- ✓ Reviewed programmes and materials in response to PARTNER FEEDBACK

More people connected with us

-  **2 500** people received our quarterly newsletter
-  **2 871** Facebook page followers
-  **51 092** unique website visitors
-  **11 614** page views of materials on our website
-  **2 409** people used apps with Wordworks content



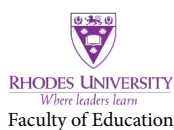
We are proud to partner with **55** organisations that use Wordworks materials and programmes, and who, together with our teams, support programmes in communities, ECD centres and schools.



The Childcare Desk of the Methodist Church SA

Hout Bay Project

We also partner with the following organisations and institutions who incorporate elements of our programmes into their work.



# Contact us for more information

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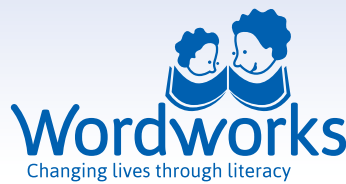
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Search for WORDWORKS in the Play Store, or use this link <https://bit.ly/2GzvRF3>.

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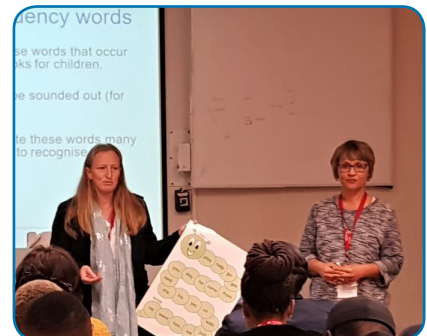
IBAN: 036009 27 037 3837 | PBO: 930022252 | NPO: 044-766



Saluting women who contribute to the development of early literacy



Community Chest Impumelelo Social Innovations 2019 Award



Literacy Association of South Africa (LITASA) Conference 2019



Mandela Day 2019



Mandela Day 2019



Nelson Mandela Institute Literacy Conference, EC



Online challenge - Anyone can be an early literacy champion. Anywhere. Anytime



Online challenge - Anyone can be an early literacy champion. Anywhere. Anytime



Participation in Cape Town Marathon 2019 to raise awareness of early literacy