

A new Director for Wordworks

From the Wordworks Board

The board is pleased to announce that Mammuso Makhanya has been appointed as the new Wordworks director, joining at the beginning of November. We greatly look forward to working with her and will endeavour to provide her - and the Wordworks team - with the support needed for a smooth transition. The board offers outgoing director Shelley O'Carroll huge thanks and much appreciation, not only for her leadership over the past 16 years during which she helped to grow Wordworks into the organisation it is today, but also for her inspired and democratic leadership in the process of finding a new leader. A very big thank you to Shelley, and a very warm welcome to Mammuso!

From Shelley

After a rigorous recruitment process that involved our board, management team and staff, we are very pleased to welcome Mammuso as the new Director. Mammuso brings many years of experience of the donor landscape and ECD sector in South Africa, and most importantly, her engagement throughout the interview process assured us that there is strong alignment between her leadership style and the values we hold as an organisation. We appreciated Mammuso's collaborative and respectful approach and her openness to learning, and I look forward to welcoming her to our team.

More about Mammuso Makhanya

Mammuso describes herself as a socially conscious, engaged African feminist. She was inspired to a career in social development by her experience of an academic and social enrichment programme which helped her to excel at school. As a result, she relishes opportunities to contribute her skills and experience to enhance the potential of others.

Mammuso has worked with not-for-profit organisations for most of her 30-year career, spanning a wide range of sectors, including Early Education and Youth Development. Most recently, since 2013, Mammuso has been the Senior Client Relationship Manager at Tshikululu Social Investments. In this role she managed the social investment programmes of two major foundations in partnership with a number of NPOs, in the ECD and education space. She has worked closely with government departments including the Department of Basic Education and Department of Social Development on Early Childhood Development policy and implementation.

Mammuso has a BA in Psychology from UNISA and completed a Master's in Public Policy and Management in 2018. She has two adult sons and although she is Johannesburg born and bred, she has previously lived in Cape Town and looks forward to returning.

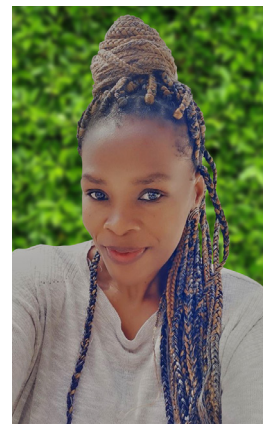
*Mammuso Makhanya,
Incoming Director of Wordworks*



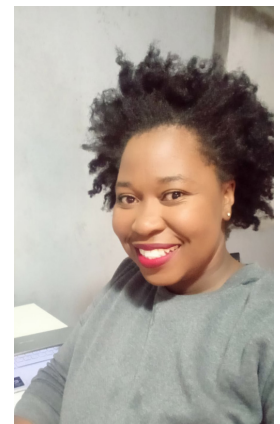
Did You Know?

Our team has grown!

Setuangane Letsatsi and Bonga Magazi have joined our team working on the Gauteng Grade R Language Improvement Programme. Training of Trainers begins in October, and teacher training in January 2022.



Setuangane Letsatsi
Project Manager and
Master Trainer



Bonga Magazi
Audiovisual
Materials Production
Coordinator

Did You Hear?

South Africa's literacy rates plunge deeper as learning time is lost

"By missing out on attendance at ECD centres, children have lost the early literacy momentum that they would have developed. This means a delay in their language and reading abilities," said Eric Atmore, head of the Centre for Early Childhood Development.

Education and literacy experts say that school dropout rates could surge in years to come if urgent interventions are not put in place to recover lost learning time."



© Schoolchildren listen to stories at the International Literacy Day commemoration at Hillwood Primary School in Lavender Hill on 8 September 2021 in Cape Town, South Africa. (Photo: Gallo Images / Brenton Goetz)

DM
Sandisiwe Shube

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-09-13-south-africas-literacy-rates-plunge-deeper-as-learning-time-is-lost/>

Wordworks remains in touch, even while social distancing!

Visit the Wordworks data-free home learning site to access informal at-home activities, support resources for Grade R and Grade 1 learners, and the Wordworks App: <https://www.homeliteracy.org.za/>.



Picture Story

Wordworks programmes in action in schools, homes and ECD centres



Siyakwazi – sharing EWC programme materials with a young mom.



Pauline Podbrey Foundation working with parents on the EWC Programme.



EWC parent workshops run by the **Liyita Foundation**, Madwaleni District.



Training of **Communities, Children & Responsible Care** Practitioners.



Training of **Grassy Park ECD Forum** Practitioners.



Thanda ECD Centre – Working with little ones on the Little Stars programme.

Yizani Sifunde (isiXhosa for “Come let’s read”) is a partnership project with Nal’ibali, Book Dash and Wordworks. It aims to address literacy challenges in parts of the Eastern Cape by working with young children, families, and educators. **Khululeka** and **ITEC** are implementing partners.



Khululeka – little ones acting out ‘Pendo the cow’ story.



Training of **Story Sparkers** as part of the **Yizani Sifunde** Project.



Picture Story

Wordworks programmes in action in schools, homes and ECD centres



Ready Steady Read Write

Supporting children learning to read and write



St. Agnes Primary School – reading one of the Book Dash books together.



Ummangaliso Primary School session with tutors.



The Lebone Centre – an example of a child's invented spelling: "I eat cheese".



Home-School Partnerships

Supporting informal learning at home in the early years



Mom and son from **Willows Primary School** look at HSP parent workbook.



Parent session at **Belmor Primary School**.



Parent certification at **Simondium Primary School**.



Together In My Education

Home learning programme for Grade R and Grade 1



Alphabet game – brother helping little brother learn his letter-sounds.



Dad enjoying TIME activities with daughter.



Darling Outreach after school programme – reading the Big Picture story.



Our Story



The Malope's

"Originally, the Malope's hail from Gauteng in Johannesburg at Fourways. We have been together for 32 years, married for 27 years. We have three girls, 27, 21, 15 and our 7-year-old grandchild. We are also foster parents for our 5, 2 and 4 year olds.

We came to Cape Town in 2006 and we fell in love with the Western Cape. Currently, we are residing in Dunoon from where we serve the community. We run an ECD and orphanage, we do aftercare and other projects.

We both decided to involve ourselves with the Home - School Partnerships Programme, with the Ubunye Educare Centre, so we can be able to employ contemporary methods in dealing with our children's growing and learning and do away with the iron hands approach we grew up with.

Our biggest "aha" moment was to learn that every situation is an opportunity for the child to learn and that just like adults, they too learn through their own mistakes. We learn that in actual fact we should tag our children along when we go shopping so they too can help with picking up, identifying shapes, colours and mass.

We have engaged the children in playing the games together and by doing so we realised that our foster children started to open up and drew themselves closer and closer to us as parents. A stronger unity is observed and a freer lifestyle on the part of the foster children has come to the fore.

To lead a warmer and happier family, the parents should engage children in most activities of the household including the home chores. The time when fathers enter a house and all the children find a place to hide is over. The children have to run and cling themselves to both parents so trust can be forged and love displayed from both sides, children and parents.

We appreciate the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity afforded to us by Wordworks in helping to raise fearless giants who will approach the world with much zeal, confidence and hunger to learn.

Sibamba ngazo zozibini! Re leboga go menagane!
Thank you very much! Ons is baie dankbaar!"

Did You See?

The TIME Programme Term Three materials for Grade R and Grade 1 are available on our data-free website: <https://www.homeliteracy.org.za/>

The materials, in three languages, are free to download. Those who ordered printed packs have collected them from our office or have received them via their Districts or in the mail.

In August and September Wordworks conducted online teacher support for TIME:

7 sessions were run for teachers who wanted to arrange support sessions with parents.

9 orientation sessions were run for the **100 Schools Project** in each District in English and isiXhosa.

Term 3

Grade 1



Be inspired! Take **TIME** to enjoy learning together.

English

