



# Every Word Counts

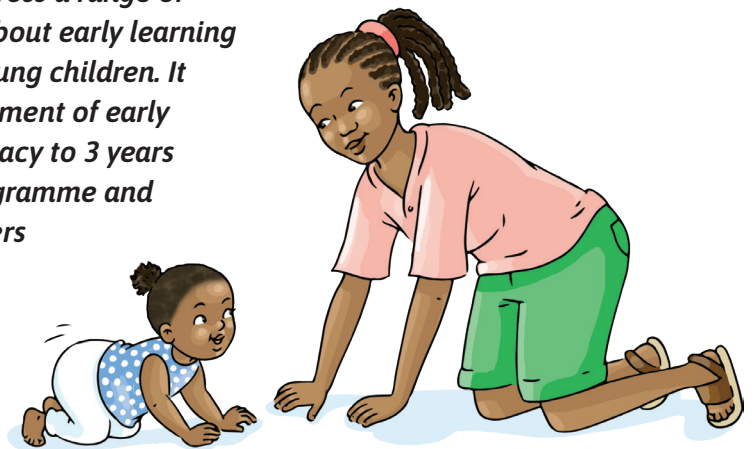
Supporting the learning of babies and young children

An early literacy programme by Wordworks

## Every Word Counts programme

*The Every Word Counts programme can be used across a range of community settings to introduce new knowledge about early learning to those who care for and work with babies and young children. It provides practical ideas for supporting the development of early language and literacy, across two age bands: pregnancy to 3 years and 3–5 years. Organisations can integrate the programme and resources into their work with parents and caregivers through home visits or parent groups.*

*ECD practitioners and playgroup facilitators can use their learning in their daily interactions with children and are encouraged to run a series of workshops for their parents.*



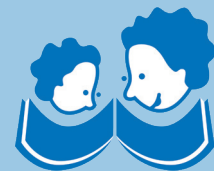
### Programme goals




















- Build an understanding of the importance of loving, responsive caregiving and the positive impact of talking with babies and young children.
- Introduce parents and caregivers to what is meant by early language and literacy learning.
- Share practical ideas and resources on how to support and stimulate language and early literacy in ECD centres, playgroups and at home.

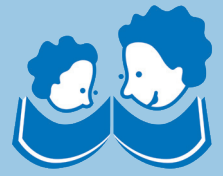
### How the programme works

- Organisations, ECD forums and ECD centres apply to participate in advertised training or engage with Wordworks to set up a training course for an interested group. A wide range of participants will find the content useful: ECD practitioners, play group facilitators, home/health visitors, community workers, ECD trainers, Speech and Language therapists/students.
- The participants should choose an age-band: (1) pregnancy to 3 years or (2) 3–5 years.
- EWC trainers certified by Wordworks, provide resource-based core training on the EWC materials. Core training requires 12 hours for each age-band selected.
- The core EWC training equips participants with the knowledge and practical skills to support language and early literacy development of babies and young children. Participants will be encouraged to use this in their community- and home-based early childhood and parenting programmes.
- Two additional modules are available on completion of a core course. These train and resource practitioners to offer language programmes to their children, parents and caregivers (see details after the diagram on the next page).

## Overview of the EWC core course content



EWC themes and developmental phases									
Age band	Developmental phase	Love and connect	Talk	Sing	Play	Share books	Tell stories	Notice print	Draw and write
1	Pregnancy to 6 months								
	6 to 12 months								
	1- and 2-year-olds								
2	3- to 5-year-olds								



## Overview of the optional modules

- The first optional module can be taken after completion of the core course for either age-band. It equips ECD practitioners to run a programme of six 2-hour workshops for parents at their centre so that they can support language and literacy learning at home. Parents will need to have a Workbook and a set of basic stationery.
- The second optional module is specifically for those teaching pre-Grade R children, or training these practitioners. It can be taken after completion of the core course for the three- to five-year old age band. The training introduces practitioners to our Little Stars programme and equips them to use these stories and story-based activities to strengthen the teaching of language and early literacy. Practitioners will need a set of Little Stars materials.

## Programme results

### Babies and children benefit

- From birth, they engage in responsive, loving communication.
- They are encouraged to learn through play at home and in ECD centres.
- They develop strong spoken language and build important early literacy foundations.

### Parents and caregivers benefit

- They learn how to support their babies' and young children's language and early literacy learning at home.
- They build new routines and their self-esteem and confidence grows as they experience success.
- They become role models in their communities.

### Trainers, practitioners and community workers benefit

- Their knowledge about early language and literacy development for babies and young children grows.
- They partner respectfully with families to support early learning.
- They build their skills as facilitators, trainers, practitioners, home visitors and community workers.

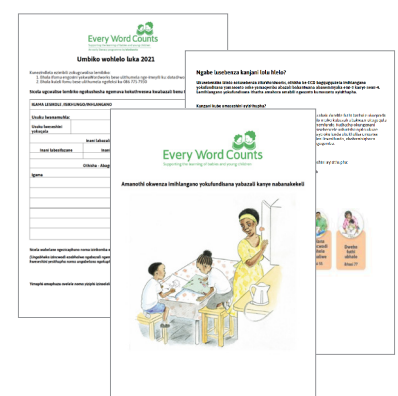
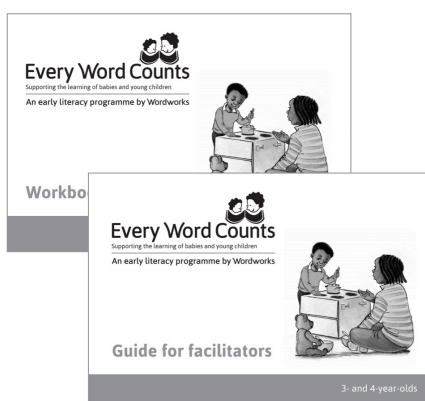
## Programme resources

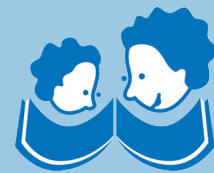
The EWC programme covers the two age bands:

- 1 pregnancy to 3 years
- 2 3–5 years.

In each age band, the following EWC resources are available:

- A Workbook for all who attend EWC training
- A Guide for facilitators who facilitate EWC training
- An A4 flipbook for home visits
- Notes for running parent workshops





# Would your organisation/department like to partner with Wordworks to use the EWC programme?

Wordworks warmly encourages organisations to use the EWC programme and materials in their work. Our materials are open source and our model is one of partnership.

We offer training, resources and support for partners who wish to take EWC into their own networks. We ask partners to share their learning with Wordworks and other organisations that are using EWC.

Here are some key partnership ideas that we offer you:

- 1 Training:** Wordworks offers annual Training of Trainers courses for EWC which are open to new organisations as well as existing partners who would like to build additional capacity. Graduates will receive a certificate after they have trained a group of practitioners or home visitors and completed a portfolio.
- 2 Materials:** Wordworks provides programme materials at a competitive price to partners. We will also offer the pdf's of the EWC Workbook so that partners can print these in-house or at a local printer.
- 3 Wordworks website portal:** Wordworks has set up a portal on our website for partners. It houses all supporting documents related to the programme, useful videos and interesting reading, new programme materials and M&E tools. Partners will receive a password to the portal which will be renewed annually if they continue using the programme.
- 4 M&E support:** Wordworks will provide M&E support, through tools to assess programme effectiveness and impact, and through supporting the write up of case studies and shared learning.
- 5 Partner reporting:** Partners are required to send a short report to Wordworks annually so that we can track programme reach and share learning.
- 6 Partner recognition:** We are careful to acknowledge our partners' programme contributions, reach and impact in all our communications.



**Next step:** If you would like to partner with Wordworks and to train on the EWC programme in your networks, please contact us at [info@wordworks.org.za](mailto:info@wordworks.org.za)



# 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.

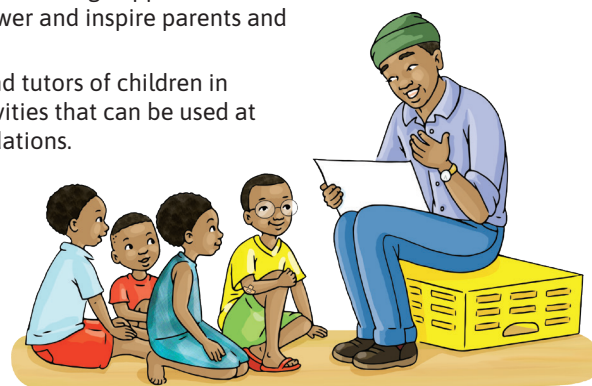
We are working collaboratively to grow an informed, capable, resourced and motivated network of schools, organisations and institutions that promote the importance of, and work effectively for, the improvement of children's early language and literacy, through their association with our programmes and 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 and caregivers 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 and caregivers 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 and caregivers to support informal learning at home.
- **TIME programme** (5–8 years): This programme is for parents, caregivers and tutors of children in Grade R and Grade 1. It consists of carefully developed, CAPS aligned activities that can be used at home and in after-school programmes to build language and maths foundations.

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.



Should you need any more information, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below:



T: +27 (0) 21 788 9233 • F: +27 (0) 86 775 7930

A: 46 Main Road, Heathfield, 7945 • E: [info@wordworks.org.za](mailto:info@wordworks.org.za) • W: [www.wordworks.org.za](http://www.wordworks.org.za)

S: Facebook: [facebook.com/wordworksSA](https://www.facebook.com/wordworksSA) • Instagram: [WordworksZA](https://www.instagram.com/WordworksZA)

Free Wordworks App: search for WORDWORKS in the Google Play store (or use this link <https://bit.ly/2GzVRF3>)

Support Us: Standard Bank • Swift code SBZAJJ • IBAN: 036009 27 037 3837 • PBO: 930022252 • NPO: 044-766