



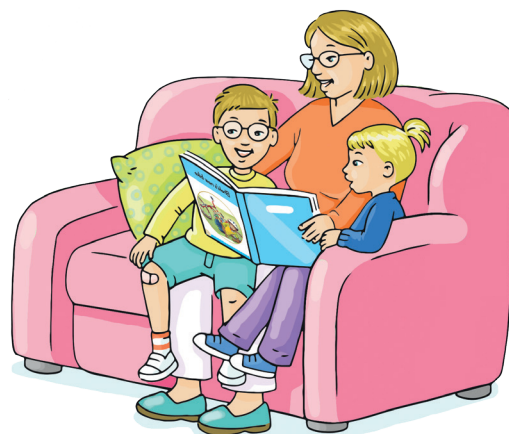
# Home-School Partnerships

Supporting informal learning at home in the early years

An early literacy programme by Wordworks

## Home-School Partnerships programme

*The Home-School Partnerships programme is designed for Foundation Phase and Learning Support teachers to facilitate a space for parents in which to share knowledge and ideas about children's language and early literacy development. The programme builds co-operation between families and schools, and encourages parents and caregivers in their role as their children's first teachers. Teacher-facilitators run a programme of workshops for parents and caregivers of 5–8 year old children. The workshops run for 2½ hours a week over eight weeks.*



### Programme goals

- Provide guidance, ideas and resources on how to support and stimulate learning at home, particularly early language and literacy learning.
- Develop stronger relationships between homes and schools, parents, caregivers and children.
- Promote understanding of the important role that parents and caregivers have to play in their child's education.
- Foster a culture of talking, reading, drawing and writing in families.

### How the programme works

- Education districts, schools or organisations apply to train to use the programme.
- HSP trainers certified by Wordworks, provide 18 hours of training for facilitators from a school or organisation.
- The facilitators are equipped to organise and run the eight-session Home-School Partnerships programme.
- Facilitators deliver the programme through a series of weekly 2½-hour workshops, for a group of parents and caregivers.
- All parents and caregivers on the course receive a Workbook filled with ideas, activities and games to support their children's learning, and a certificate on completion of the course.

## Overview of the HSP session's for parents and caregivers



### Session 1



Focus on parents and caregivers as our children's first teachers.

### Session 2



Focus on learning language.

### Session 3



Focus on drawing and have-a-go writing.

### Session 4



Focus on reading and writing.

### Session 5



Focus on developing children's big and small muscles, and games to support physical development.

### Session 6



Focus on early maths using the world as our classroom.

### Session 7

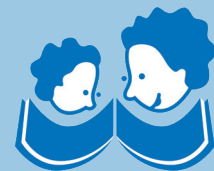


Focus on using card and board games to promote language and learning.

### Session 8



Summing up the programme, feedback and planning ahead, celebration and certificates.



## Programme results

### Children benefit

- They receive important support and encouragement at home.
- They experience smoother and more positive transitions from home to school and back again.
- They are more confident, participate more in class and have a more positive attitude to school.
- They show progress in spoken language, reading and writing.

### Parents and caregivers benefit

- They learn how to support their children's learning at home.
- They shift their routines and work towards positive parenting habits.
- Their self-esteem and confidence grows as they experience success.
- They are inspired to become volunteers at school and in the community and even to study further.

### Teacher-facilitators benefit

- Their knowledge about early language and literacy learning grows.
- Their attitude to parents becomes more understanding and respectful.
- Their skills as facilitators, leaders and speakers flourish.
- Their facilitation skills positively influence their teaching style.

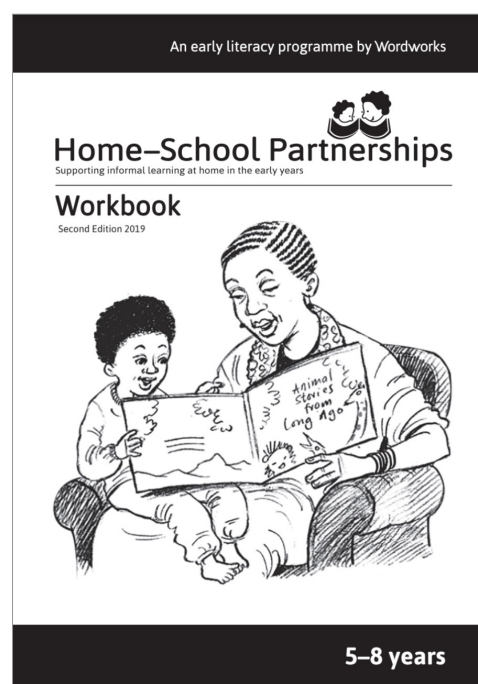
### Education Departments benefit

School managers and department officials have access to a tried and tested, low-cost parent/caregiver programme, focused on early language and literacy, with training and resource materials, implementation models and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools.

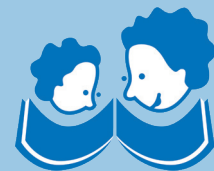
## Programme resources

The following resources are provided by Wordworks to those running the Home-School Partnerships programme:

- A Guide for Facilitators
- A Workbook (for facilitators and parents)



# Would your organisation/department like to partner with Wordworks to use the Home-School Partnerships programme in your networks?



We offer training, resources and support for partners who wish to take HSP into their own networks. HSP facilitators being trained, should have an educational background, diploma, degree or at least a level 5 qualification. We ask partners to share their learning with Wordworks and other organisations that are using HSP.

Here are some key partnership ideas that we offer you:

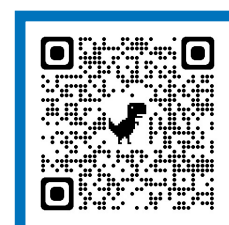
- 1 Training:** If you would like to take on the training of HSP Teacher-Facilitators in your network, please approach Wordworks to discuss a Training of Trainers process. Graduates will receive a certificate after they have trained a group of facilitators and completed a portfolio.
- 2 Materials:** Wordworks provides programme materials at a competitive price to partners. We can also offer pdf's of the HSP Facilitator's Guide and 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:** Sign up to use the HSP programme by completing the form: *Application form for Wordworks programmes.*

You can find it here: <https://forms.gle/pAmftqZPnx6hoJe6>

Or by scanning this QR code:





# 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.

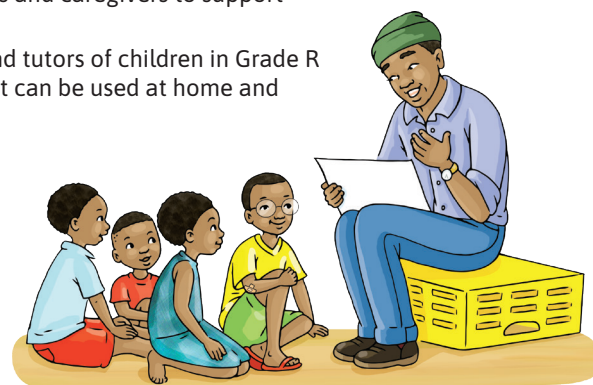
We are working collaboratively to grow an informed, capable, resourced and motivated network of schools, organisations and institutions that promote the importance of, and work effectively for, the improvement of children's early language and literacy, through their association with our programmes and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



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**Free Wordworks App:** search for WORDWORKS in the Google Play store (or use this link: <https://bit.ly/2GzvRF3>)

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