

# Annual Report 2018



**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

At this time of political and financial uncertainty in South Africa, NGOs are faced with the challenge of an increasing demand for our work in the context of reduced funding opportunities. We are not just working to supplement what the state system offers, but must increasingly address the huge gaps in government's ability to meet the needs of young children and those that care for and teach them. Despite the urgent need for the work of NGOs, the funding space is incredibly tight with less open funding available locally and reduced foreign investment as donors shift their priorities to fighting corruption.



In this tough climate we have to work harder than ever to earn the confidence of donors. We are challenged to continually look for ways of being more efficient, effective and sustainable, while growing our reach and showing impact. In 2018, we invested in our data management system so that we are able to track the many layers of our programme work and reach more systematically. Through strong programme implementation, we are building evidence of what works, and what is required for replication and scale.



At times of financial constraint, there is a risk that NGOs hold their work close and compete amongst themselves for limited resources. Within our own network of partners we continue to see a willingness to work collaboratively and we remain committed to ongoing sharing of our experience and resources. We continue to balance our direct work with partnerships with other NGOs and government, to ensure greater reach. We are seeing a growing demand for our school-based programmes, and increased government investment in supporting schools to partner with families and communities. In the ECD space, we continue to learn with partners who are integrating our early literacy content into their work with families and teachers of young children. We have taken their feedback into account in a review of our materials to ensure that our offering aligns with and complements other work being done in ECD.



Beyond our programme work, we continue to be encouraged by the wide use of our early literacy materials and take up of our content by universities, government programmes and national literacy initiatives. We participate in technical advisory teams, and advocate for the importance of early literacy in spaces where the prevailing view remains that the process of learning to read and write begins at school. We hold the flag for Grade R as a critically important year, and for investment in language and early literacy development in ECD centres and homes. It remains clear that bridging the space between ECD centres, schools and homes, and building awareness of early literacy development in all of these spaces is our life's work.



We continue to argue that we will not see change in this country until there is substantial and meaningful investment in quality education for our youngest children. We haven't come this far to come this far. There is still so much work to be done.

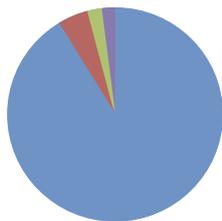


  
**Dr Shelley O'Carroll**  
Wordworks Director

# Financial Report - Year ending December 2018

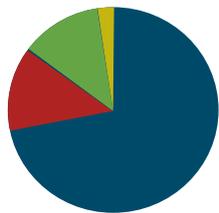
	2018	2017
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants & donations	7 887 348,00	9 560 920,00
Sale of resources & services rendered	489 604,00	247 254,00
Bursary fund	200 000,00	240 000,00
Interest	182 927,00	191 773,00
	<b>R 8 759 879,00</b>	<b>R 10 239 947,00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Training & capacity building	6 606 980,00	6 216 696,00
Materials & resources	1 221 072,00	1 921 889,00
Office costs	1 156 164,00	1 252 556,00
Bursary fund	168 000,00	151 442,00
	<b>R 9 152 216,00</b>	<b>R 9 542 583,00</b>

\* R638 997 of income received in advance deferred to 2019 expenses



### Income 2018

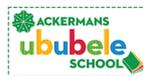
- Grants & donations 90%
- Sales of resources & services rendered 6%
- Bursary fund 2%
- Interest 2%



### Expenditure 2018

- Training & capacity building 72%
- Materials & resources 13%
- Office costs 13%
- Bursary fund 2%

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 • David & Elaine Potter Foundation  
Johann and Gaynor Rupert Foundation • Grindrod Family Centenary Trust • Hout Bay and Llandudno Education Trust

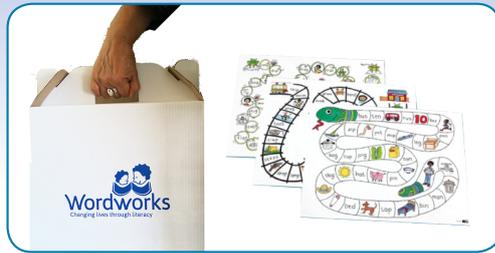
Thank you to the individuals who contributed to the Wordworks Storybook Fund.

# Our materials reached more people

80% of Wordworks materials are available in Afrikaans and isiXhosa, and 25% in isiZulu.



Animal Cards



Big Game Box



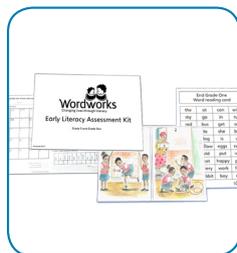
Literacy Game Pack



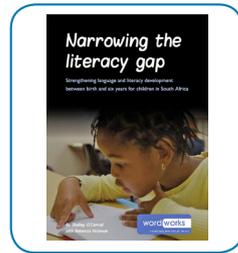
Make your own booklet



Early Literacy Teacher's Kit



Early Literacy Assessment Kit



Narrowing the literacy gap



Much more than counting



Wordworks Memory Stick



HSP Guide for Facilitators



HSP Parent Pack



RSRW Manual for Co-ordinators



RSRW Tutor Kit



RSRW Training DVD



Stellar Teacher's Guides



Stellar Story Packs



Stellar Teacher's Guide for Parent Meetings



Stellar Workbooks for teachers



Stellar Guides for facilitators



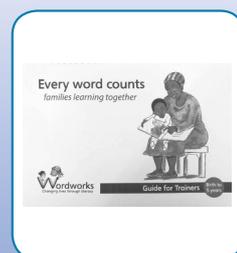
Little Stars Teacher's Guides



EWC A3 Flipcharts



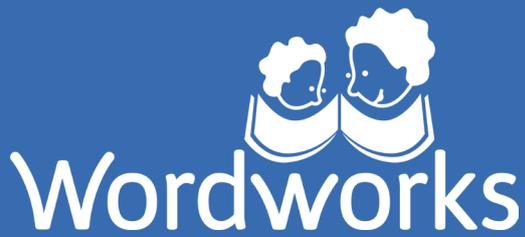
EWC A5 Flipcharts



EWC Guide for Trainers



Wordworks App



**MORE PEOPLE LEARNT ABOUT  
EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY  
THROUGH WORDWORKS**

**MORE PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH US**

 **1 700** people received our quarterly newsletter (↑ from **1 330**)

 **2 344** Facebook page likes (↑ from **1 705**)

 **6 875** Facebook shares, likes and comments (↑ from **6 198**)

 **14 717** unique website visitors (↑ from **9 894**)

**MORE PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH OUR MATERIALS**

 **18 976** page views of materials on our website (↑ from **12 950**)

 **9 500** people engaged with our materials at events run by our partners

 **2 476** people downloaded apps with our content (↑ from **1 224**)

 **405** people attended our new materials workshops series

 **7** organisations and institutions incorporated our content into their programmes



# Programme Highlights

## Every Word Counts



In addition to our ongoing training of trainers from partner organisations, our Every Word Counts (EWC) programme added two new strands to our training model.



### Speech therapists

Speech and occupational therapists and social workers attended EWC training in Cape Town. Speech therapists working at Madwaleni Hospital on the Wild Coast trained rehabilitation assistants in their unit. EWC was used with parents in the high-risk baby clinic, the malnutrition ward, in cerebral palsy parent groups, and during individual therapy sessions for children with developmental delays. Feedback from therapists is that EWC is a helpful, practical and culturally-appropriate tool to use in our hospital settings with parents, and is applicable to children who have a range of needs in terms of developmental stimulation.



### ECD practitioners working with parents

Practitioners from ECD centres in the Western Cape were trained to share EWC ideas and activities with parents to use with their little ones at home. EWC provides parents with informal ways to help develop their children's early literacy, and ensure stimulation. These methods are easily replicable, enabling parents to pass them on to others in their communities.



## Ready Steady Read Write

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* Mahatma Gandhi

**Volunteer tutors are the cornerstone** of the Ready Steady Read Write Programme - without them, there would be no programme. Moms, grannies, retired teachers and committed community members offer at least two hours a week to schools in their community to work with children to improve their literacy skills. Together with the four-step programme, the **loving relationships** that develop between volunteers and the children they work with, help children believe in themselves and achieve more at school.

Volunteering as a tutor is not only about working with children. It is also about being part of something greater than yourself. It is about meeting new people, learning new skills and knowing that you are playing a valuable role in improving your community. Volunteer tutors are an invaluable resource for teachers, schools, communities and, ultimately, our country. We **celebrate the dedication** and passion that they bring to their work and the significant difference they make to the lives of many young children.

*"It is a huge privilege to be touching the lives of these little people; the next generation. Our time with them is so special and our weekly sessions plant seeds of hope and trust that will take these children far into the future."*

*"Being a Ready Steady Read Write tutor changed my life completely. I love interacting and reaching kids' hearts. It's brought so much joy and contentment in my life."*

*"The way the children run to me in the mornings before class makes me feel like I did something positive and I see how I enrich their lives. They make me feel like I can achieve anything. Their wings are being developed and I love watching them soar."*



# Home-School Partnerships



Wordworks Home-School Partnerships (HSP) Programme team members share just some of the many programme highlights they experienced during 2018.

**Training of trainers:** “In April 2018, Wordworks trained two groups of HSP trainers to train and mentor their own network of facilitators. This is part of the sustainability plan for HSP so that the Wordworks can manage the huge demand for the programme and the continuing growth in the number of schools running HSP.”

**Training new facilitators:** “The training of new facilitators is a new wave of influencing and motivating the lives of 140+ educators in thinking differently and doing parenting and teaching differently, and thereby touching so many children’s lives.”

**Training in mother tongue:** “Teachers felt free to ask questions in the language of their choice and they also gave ideas on how they share concepts with parents in a way that parents understand.”

**Feedback from teacher-facilitators:** “Highlights were seeing the eager faces of the parents who attended each week and what was even more beautiful was to see the relationships the parents had built with one another. They offered advice and support, shared so many of their own personal experiences about their children and gave so much input to the content learned.”

**Feedback from parents:** “Many parents who attended the eight-week sessions have committed themselves to other Wordworks programmes, like volunteering in the Ready Steady Read Write Programme. It also was very heart-warming to hear parents saying things like, ‘The Wordworks programme connected my family together. Now we have routines in the house’.”

**Parent certification events:** “It is absolutely awesome to visit the schools when they have their parent graduations. Sometimes it was difficult to hold back the tears when you realise how this programme is changing communities. Seeing the smiles and facial expressions that say, ‘I did this!’ is a priceless sight.”

# Stellar Home Language



## A highlight of 2018 was the release of our new and revised Stellar materials

- Revised teacher guides for the two-week cycle
- A new teacher guide for parent meetings
- New modularised teacher workbooks (and companion facilitator guides) to use in training

## We were delighted to continue to train Stellar trainers at partner NGOs

- In February, at Rhodes University, with 15 Stellar trainers and facilitators from Early Inspiration, Axiom Education, Khululeka, ITEC, Rhodes Centre for Social Development and Lebone Centre.
- In September, at Early Inspiration in PE with 10 new trainers from Early Inspiration, Khululeka and ITEC.
- From July–November, at ELRU in Cape Town, with 14 trainers from the Primary Science Programme, Early Learning Resource Unit and UCT’s Schools Development Unit.

Special acknowledgement goes to our Eastern Cape partners who took Stellar to 78 new Grade R teachers - from Graaf Reinet to Cofimvaba – drawing on their own financial resources.

## In response to requests from our partners, we are piloting a version of Stellar for pre-Grade R classrooms.

Little Stars is Stellar’s little sister and is designed on the same principle of a two-week cycle of story-based activities. We worked with Earlybird Educare@Work to develop and pilot the materials, and received valuable feedback from Khululeka as they integrated the materials into their training for ECD practitioners. Our work with Foundation Phase Advisors and some of the leading ECD NGOs in the country has convinced us that a story-based approach to language teaching is both aligned with the Curriculum, and with the principles of a strong, child centred approach to teaching young children.



**24 693** CHILDREN BENEFITTED from Wordworks **EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY PROGRAMMES** run by our partners in WordNetworks 

**344** Home-School Partnerships  
**TEACHER-FACILITATORS** from  
**90** SITES worked with  
**1 416** PARENTS and CAREGIVERS.

**10** Stellar & Little Stars Trainers from  
**5** ORGANISATIONS worked with  
**123** GRADE R and PRE-GRADE R  
TEACHERS at  
**94** SCHOOLS and ECD CENTRES

**84** Every Word Counts Trainers from  
**36** ORGANISATIONS AND CENTRES  
worked with over  
**5 290** ECD PRACTITIONERS,  
HOME VISITORS and PARENTS.

**131** Ready Steady Read Write  
CO-ORDINATORS from  
**90** SITES worked with  
**515** TUTORS.

**TO SUPPORT OUR PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY PROGRAMMES,  
WORDWORKS:**

- ✓ Offered more than **350** HOURS of TRAINING to **614** NEW PROGRAMME ROLEPLAYERS
- ✓ SPONSORED MATERIALS to the value of **R784 057**
- ✓ Hosted **29** PARTNER EVENTS
- ✓ Provided more than **660** HOURS of MENTORING to partners
- ✓ PROFILED PARTNERS' PROGRAMME WORK on our website, facebook page and in our newsletter
- ✓ COLLECTED, ANALYSED and SHARED programme data
- ✓ REVIEWED PROGRAMMES and materials in response to partner feedback.

## Schools and ECD centres using our programmes

**In 2018, 134 schools ran the Home-School Partnerships and Ready Steady Read Write programmes. They are part of a growing network of schools supporting and involving parents and communities to strengthen early language and literacy.**

Province	School/ECD Centre	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	Ben Sinuka Primary School Fumisukoma Primary School George Dickerson Primary School  Good Shepherd Primary School  Lukhanyiso Primary School Pearston Primary School Samuel Ntsiko Primary School Seyisi Primary School St Mary's RC Primary School  Tantyi Primary School	RSRW 2015–present (with Masinyusane Development Organisation) RSRW 2018 (with Masinyusane Development Organisation) HSP 2018; RSRW 2016–present (both with Lebone Centre; RSRW also with Inkwenkwezi Society) HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both with Lebone Centre; HSP also with GADRA Education) RSRW 2015–present (with Sophakama Community Partnership) RSRW 2015–present (with Sophakama Community Partnership) RSRW 2016–present (with Lebone Centre and Inkwenkwezi Society) RSRW 2017–present (with Masinyusane Development Organisation) HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both with Lebone Centre; RSRW also with Inkwenkwezi Society) HSP 2018 (with Lebone Centre and GADRA Education)
<b>Gauteng</b>	Observatory Girls Primary School	RSRW 2013–present
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	Addington Primary School Clayheights Primary School HP Ngwenya Primary School Kranskloof Primary School KwaDebeka Baptist Church Mariannridge Primary School Natest Primary School Literacy Centre Noodsberg Baptist Church Rydalvale Primary School	RSRW 2014–present * RSRW 2017–present * RSRW 2017–present * RSRW 2015–present RSRW 2017–present * RSRW 2017–present * RSRW 2018 (with Anchor of Hope Africa) RSRW 2017–present * RSRW 2017–present * (* with CAST)
<b>Western Cape</b>	Badisa Matsi-Care	HSP 2018 *
<b>West Coast</b>	Ebenhaeser Primêre Skool	HSP 2018 *
	Elizabethfontein Moravian Primêre Skool	RSRW 2016–present
	Koekenaap VGK Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present *
	Laurie Hugo Primêre School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both with Bathesda Community Centre)
	Lutzville NGK Primêre Skool	HSP 2018 *
	Nieuwoudt Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present *
	Nuwerus Hoërskool	HSP 2017–present *
	St Boniface RK Primêre Skool	HSP 2018 *
	Uitkyk Primêre Skool	HSP 2017–present *
	Vooruitsig Primêre Skool	RSRW 2016–present (with Darling Outreach Foundation) (* with West Coast Education District Circuit 5)
<b>Eden &amp; Central Karoo</b>	Kranshoek Primêre Skool	RSRW 2017–present (with Bitou 10 Foundation)
<b>Cape Winelands</b>	Anne Fredericks Pre-Primêre Skool	HSP 2018 *
	Lammeroes Kleuterskool	HSP 2014–present *
	Precious Jewels Playgroup	HSP 2015–2016, 2018 *
	Tinkie Winkie Dagsorg Sentrum	HSP 2018 *
	Warmbron Pre-Primêre Skool	HSP 2016, 2018 *
		(* with Breede River Winelands Rotary Club & Langeberg ECD Forum)

Province	School/ECD Centre	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Metro South	Alpine Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
	AZ Berman Primary School	HSP 2007, 2015, 2018; RSRW 2015–present
	Bay Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
	Buck Road Primary School	HSP 2011–present; RSRW 2011–present
	Capricorn Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2008–present
	Constantia Primary School	RSRW 2014–present
	Cornflower Primary School	HSP 2008–2010, 2014–present; RSRW 2014–2015, 2018
	Eastville Primary School	HSP 2014–2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2013–present
	Entshona Primary School	HSP 2018
	Fairview Primary School	HSP 2012–present
	Floreat Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018
	Grassy Park EC Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
	Happy Tots Pre-School	HSP 2018 (with Floreat Primary School)
	Hazeldene Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
	Hyde Park Primary School	HSP 2018
	iThemba Labantu Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (both with iThemba Labantu Lutheran Community Centre)
	Jamaica Way Primary School	RSRW 2018
	Kannemeyer Primary School	HSP 2010–2013, 2018
	Kleinberg Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
	Lantana Primary School	HSP 2008–present; RSRW 2011–present
	Levana Primary School	HSP 2015–present
	Marine Primary School	HSP 2013, 2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2008–present
	Merrydale Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
	Mitchell Heights Primary School	HSP 2014–2015, 2018; RSRW 2014–present
	Mitchells Plain School of Skills	HSP 2017–present
	Montagu Drive Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2012–present
	Montagu's Gift Primary School	HSP 2015, 2018; RSRW 2015–present
	Muizenberg Junior School	RSRW 2013–2015, 2017–present
	Ottery Road Methodist Primary School	HSP 2013–2014, 2018; RSRW 2013–present
	Parkwood Primary School	HSP 2013–present
	Pelican Park Primary School	HSP 2011–present; RSRW 2013–present
	Plantation Primary School	HSP 2012–2014, 2018; RSRW 2013–present
	Portland Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2015–2016, 2018
	Prince George Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
	Sid G Rule Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Simon van der Stel Primêre Skool	RSRW 2013–present
	Simon's Town School	HSP 2018
	Southfield Primary School	HSP 2013–2015, 2017–present; RSRW 2013–present
	Spine View Primary School	RSRW 2014–present
	Springdale Primary School	HSP 2008, 2014–present; RSRW 2016–present
	Square Hill Primary School	HSP 2012–present; RSRW 2013–present
	St Augustine's RC Primary School Wittebome	HSP 2013–present
	St James' RC Primary School	HSP 2006, 2009–present; RSRW 2005–present
	St Mary's RC Primary School (Retreat)	RSRW 2011–present
	Star of the Sea Convent Primary School	RSRW 2013–2016, 2018
	Stephen Road Primary School	HSP 2012–2014, 2016, 2018; RSRW 2011–present
	Three Bears Academy	HSP 2018 (with The Reading Room)
	Vukani Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2016–present (RSRW with Beautiful Gate SA)
	West End Primary School	HSP 2007, 2009, 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present
	Westville Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2013–present
Woodville Primary School	HSP 2014–present; RSRW 2014–present	
Wynberg Sekondêr	HSP 2018 (with The Reading Room)	
Yeshua Christian Primary School	RSRW 2017–present	
Zanemfundo Primary School	RSRW 2016–present (with Beautiful Gate SA)	
Zwaanswyk Academy	HSP 2015–present	

Province	School/ECD Centre	Wordworks Programme – years active (partners involved)
Metro North	Belhar Primary School	HSP 2016–present; RSRW 2018
	Eldene Primary School	HSP 2018
	Gardenia Primary School	HSP 2016–present
	Norwood Central Primary School	HSP 2014, 2017–present
	St Augustine’s RC Primary School Parow	HSP 2016–present
	Ubunye Educare Centre	HSP 2017–present
	Valhalla Primary School	HSP 2014–present
	Welwitschia Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2018
Ysterplaat Junior Primary School	RSRW 2018	
Metro East	Chumisa Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2016–present (RSRW with Thope Foundation)
	Happy Valley Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018 (both with Mellon Educate)
	Intshayelelo Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018
	Kuyasa Primary School	HSP 2017–present (with Mellon Educate)
	Noluthando School for the Deaf	HSP 2018
	Sobambisana Primary School	HSP 2018 (with Mellon Educate)
	Sosebenza Primary School	HSP 2018 (with Mellon Educate)
Ummangaliso Primary School	HSP 2017–present; RSRW 2018 (both with Mellon Educate)	
Metro Central	Angelstarfish Pre-Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
	Arcadia Primary School	HSP 2017 (with MCED Learning Support), 2018
	Bokmakierie Primary School	RSRW 2017–present
	Bonga Lower Primary School	HSP 2012, 2017–present
	Bramble Way Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Cypress Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Educare Pre-Primary School	RSRW 2013–present
	Ellerton Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Garlandale Primary School	RSRW 2015–present
	Hangberg Pre-Primary School	HSP 2018; RSRW 2015–present (both with Hangberg Educational Trust)
	Hazendal Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Heideveld Primary School	RSRW 2014–present (with GCU Academy)
	HJ Kroneberg Junior Primary School	HSP 2017–present
	Kenmere Primary School	HSP 2012–present
	Kronendal Primary School	RSRW 2010–present
	Noluthando Day Care	RSRW 2016–present
	Parkfields Primary School	HSP 2018 (with MCED Learning Support)
	Sentinel Primary School	HSP 2007, 2009–present; RSRW 2015–present (RSRW with Hangberg Educational Trust)
	St Agnes Primary School	HSP 2011–present
	St John’s RC Primary School	HSP 2018
	St Theresa RC Primary School	RSRW 2012–present (with GCU Academy)
	Starling Primary School	HSP 2012–2013, 2017–present
	Vanguard Primary School	RSRW 2014–present (with GCU Academy)
Welcome Primary School	RSRW 2014–present (with GCU Academy)	
Woodlands Primary School	RSRW 2012–present (with GCU Academy)	

**In addition, this year 105 schools and ECD centres in the Eastern and Western Cape were trained to use the Every Word Counts, Stellar and Little Stars programmes to support early language and literacy.**



We are proud to partner with **54** organisations that use Wordworks programmes, and who, together with our teams, support programmes in communities, ECD centres and schools.



Bellville Library

Bosrivier Farm Media Centre

Franschhoek ECD Forum

The Childcare Desk of the Methodist Church SA

West Coast Education District Circuit 5

We would also like to acknowledge strong collaborative working relationships with these organisations and institutions.

