

Masiphumelele Corporation & Trust

A question familiar to all parents....

If you lived here, in Masiphumelele, working whenever you can but with never enough money to feed and clothe your family properly, no prospect of a brick-built home, often in poor health; would you still be worried, above all else, about the future for your children ?

Well, all the parents we know in the township have given us the same, unsurprising, answer: yes, they are desperately worried and education, they believe, is the route out of their poverty. They also know that in today's world, a good education depends on the ability to read and write.

Children from Masi are generally not well prepared for learning to read and write when they start formal schooling; parents want to help, but often, do not know how.

Children who attend schools outside of Masiphumelele face the task of learning to read and write in English, which is their second language, from the outset. Children who attend the township school are taught in their mother tongue, Xhosa, in the first three years of their schooling and then have to make the switch-over to English.



Help is needed! And it comes in the form of a wonderfully effective English literacy and language programme; [WordWorks-Primary](#).

Based on her research and created by Dr Shelley O'Carroll, [WordWorks-Primary](#) is designed specifically to support the early literacy development of second language speakers of English from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The programme is stimulating; the children work in pairs with a tutor to read, write and play word games. The tutors, some residents of the township, some from outside, build trust and rapport by working with each pair over a full year. Shelley's [WordWorks](#) team train and supervise the tutors and manage the programme in our newly extended library building.



Does it work? Is [WordWorks-Primary](#) a success? Yes, very much so - you may be able to judge for yourself from the photos and words, here and over the page. Please help us continue and expand this vital work.



Please sponsor our work;

fund a child for a year —R1000/\$150/£100

Your donation will provide literacy specialists who train tutors—many from the township, teaching materials and the chance for parents to attend our adult literacy programmes

Education—the route out of poverty



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'I want to say thank you very much for spending your time with our children. As you are with them we noticed improvements because my child can read and write now because of you'. Aphelele's mother

'My girl is picking up a lot from you guys. Even at school you are our best helpers in Masiphumelele. With my heart I thank you guys. Keep up the good work' Aphelele's Grandmother

'He says he enjoys the lessons. The way you teach them, He shows that he have gained something. He really says he don't want to be late mom. I wish I have started this programme last year. Leeson's mother

'I really appreciate the English lessons that you bring for us, for our children in this poor place'. Luthando's grandmother

'the writing is better now. He try to read the words and his English is better. You are the best for the children of Masiphumelele' Lisakhanya's brother



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...or two, or three, or four...
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