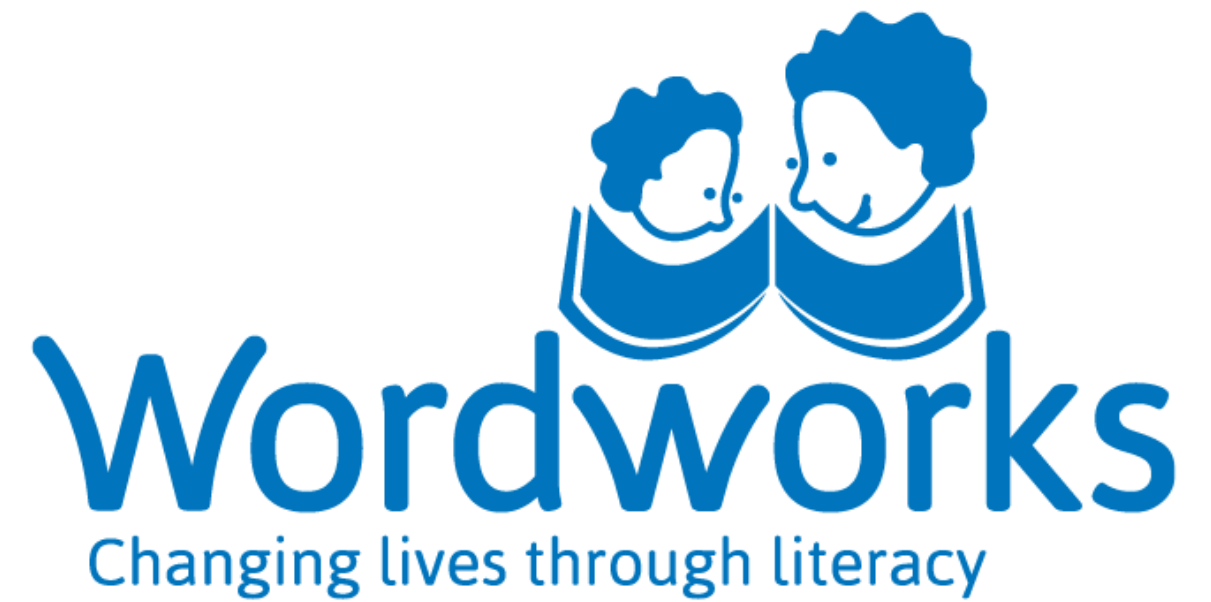




# Tuesdays in the Trenches

The Wordworks ECD programmes:  
A NASCEE Literacy Presentation Series  
18 June 2024



# The Wordworks ECD programmes



Holistic programme to support language and learning in homes, centres and communities

0-3

EWC themes and developmental phases									
Age band	Developmental phase	Love and connect	Talk	Sing	Play	Share books	Tell stories	Notice print	Draw and write
0-3	Pregnancy to 6 months								
	6 to 12 months								
	1- and 2-year-olds								
3-5	3- to 5-year-olds								



Supporting early language and literacy teaching in pre-Grade R

An early literacy programme by Wordworks

Language curriculum for the pre-Grade R classroom





Day	Week One	Week Two
Monday	Storytelling	Reading a Big Book
Tuesday	Building vocabulary	Learning to listen
Wednesday	Singing and listening for sounds	Make, draw and write
Thursday	Sequencing pictures	Little Book
Friday	Storytelling and role play	Drawing and emergent writing

Note: Wordworks offers many more early literacy programmes targeting school children.

# Little Stars and Every Word Counts



	Description		
1.	Process overview:	<p><b>Mostly Training of Trainers (ToT) model:</b>                      Wordworks trains Trainers and provides resources                      Trainers train ECD practitioners, facilitators or community players                      Practitioners are encouraged to offer workshops to parents                      Parents, facilitators, practitioners, adopt the daily practices</p>	<p><b>Mostly Training of Trainers (ToT) model:</b>                      Wordworks trains Trainers and provides resources                      Trainers train ECD practitioners, provide resources and implementation support                      Practitioners implement programme in the pre-Grade R classroom</p>
2.	Aim / Objectives / Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build an understanding of                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the importance of loving, responsive caregiving</li> <li>○ the positive impact of talking with babies / young children.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Introduce parents and caregivers to early language and literacy learning.</li> <li>● Share practical ideas and resources on how to support and stimulate language and early literacy in ECD centres, playgroups and at home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Address the literacy crisis in SA by providing children with learning experiences that build language and early literacy.</li> <li>● Provide high quality resources and lesson guidance to pre-Grade R teachers so they can build early language and literacy skills.</li> <li>● Ensure children experience well-balanced, active, creative and effective language lessons centred around a story.</li> <li>● Strengthen children’s oral language, listening skills, phonological awareness and emergent reading and writing skills.</li> </ul>
3.	Target audience / Beneficiaries:	<p>Parents of young children (0-5) and any adult working with young children, e.g. ECD practitioners                      The participants should choose an age-band: (1) pregnancy to 3 years or (2) 3–5 years.</p>	<p>Pre-Grade R practitioners                      4-5 year old children</p>
4.	Dosage:	<p>Core training requires 12 hours for each age-band selected.                      Two additional modules are available on completion of a core course.</p>	<p>A total of 30 hours of training - usually organised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 block training (2 days)</li> <li>● 6 half-day sessions (check-in and implementation support)</li> <li>● refresher sessions the following year</li> </ul>

# Wordworks' network of partnerships

Below are some of the key partners that Wordworks is associated with (not only ECD).



# Some current projects involving NGO partnerships





Projects	Geographic area	Donors	Partner NGOs or other
Get it Done	Eastern Cape: Makhanda	Get it Done	Ubunye, Lebone Centre and Rhodes University CSD as well as Book Dash
Sanlam project	Western Cape and Gauteng	Sanlam Foundation	WCED, GDE, Local ECD Forums
Truworths project	KZN and Eastern Cape	Truworths Trust	Zero2Five and Impande
Do More Project	Worcester	Do More Foundation	LIMA
LMS online course	Eastern Cape: Makhanda	HCI Foundation	Ubunye
Yizani Sifunde	Eastern Cape: East London & Queenstown	Liberty Community Trust	ITEC and Khululeka (with Book Dash and Na'ibali)

# Indicators that you monitor

**ToT model:** limits what can be monitored.

Monitoring depends on the arrangement with the implementing partners.

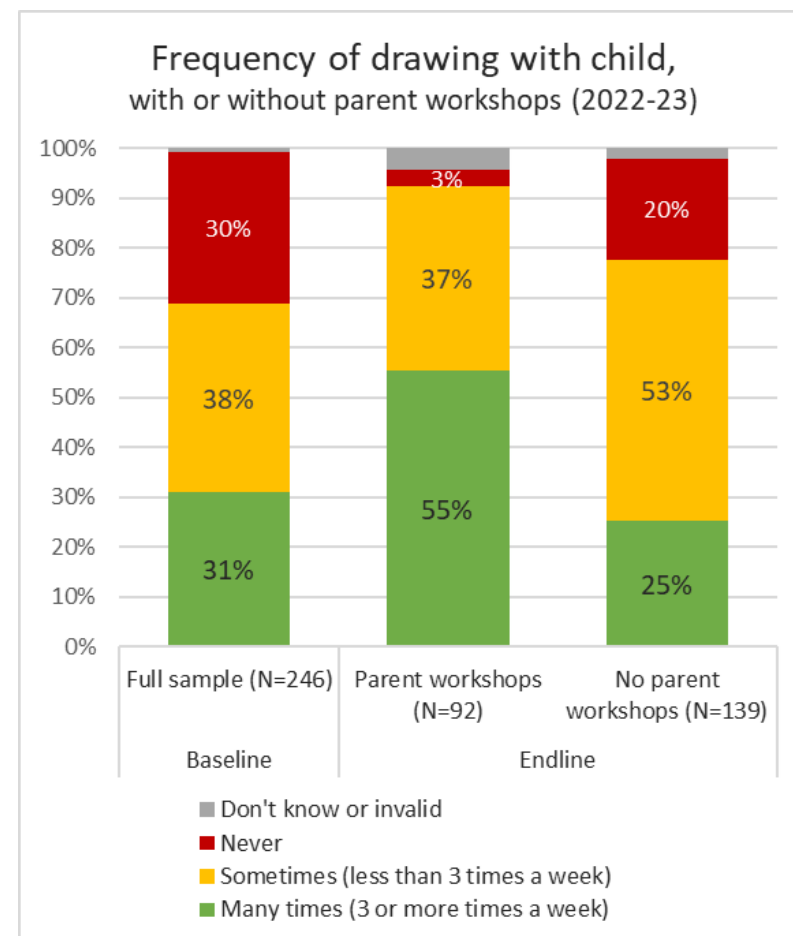
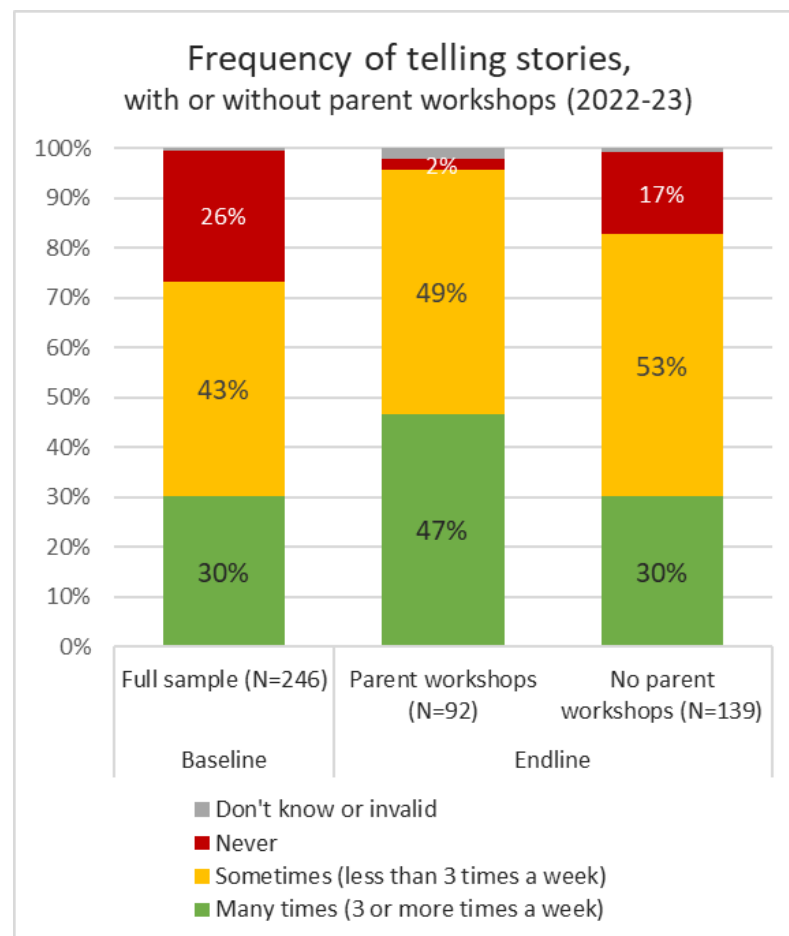
Programme	Core activities	Impact indicators	Other measures
	<p>Often more difficult to track as training happens in informal settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance to training</li> <li>● Feedback on training</li> </ul>	<p>See slide about Home Learning Environment findings in the Yizani Sifunde study</p>	<p>Child reach in 2023: 9390 children aged 0-3</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance to training</li> <li>● Feedback on training</li> <li>● Self-reports on implementation frequency and ease of implementation</li> <li>● Feedback from trainer site visits</li> </ul>	<p>Specific research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teacher practices (programme fidelity and ECERS classroom observation scores)</li> <li>- Child learning (ELOM and supplementary language measures)</li> </ul> <p>See next slide about BA Study</p>	<p>Child reach in 2023 6678 children aged 4-5</p>

# Evidence of Impact in homes



In 2022 and 2023, in the Eastern Cape (Yizani Sifunde), we used DataDrive2030's HLE (Home Learning Environment) tool pre- and post-intervention.

Over the two years, 246 caregivers were asked, at baseline (March-April) and endline (Oct-November), how **frequently** they engaged in various activities with the child over the past week. Of these caregivers, 92 had attended at least one EWC parent workshop ("Parent workshop") and 139 had not ("No parent workshop").\*



Other qualitative outcomes mentioned in caregiver interviews included:

- More present / hands-on parenting:
- More patience
- More communication between caregiver and child
- Improved caregiver awareness of child's learning
- Richer interactions, various activities, reading, book-sharing
- Mutual support in the community of parents

The results suggest that EWC workshops **have resulted in increased families' engagement in storytelling and drawing**. Both these activities are critical for the child's literacy, specifically **narrative skills** and **writing skills**.

*\*Note: Parents who attended a parent workshop were not randomly selected, so they may not be entirely comparable to the parents who did not attend. The "No-Parent workshops" subgroup therefore do not constitute a "control group" but merely a comparison group.*

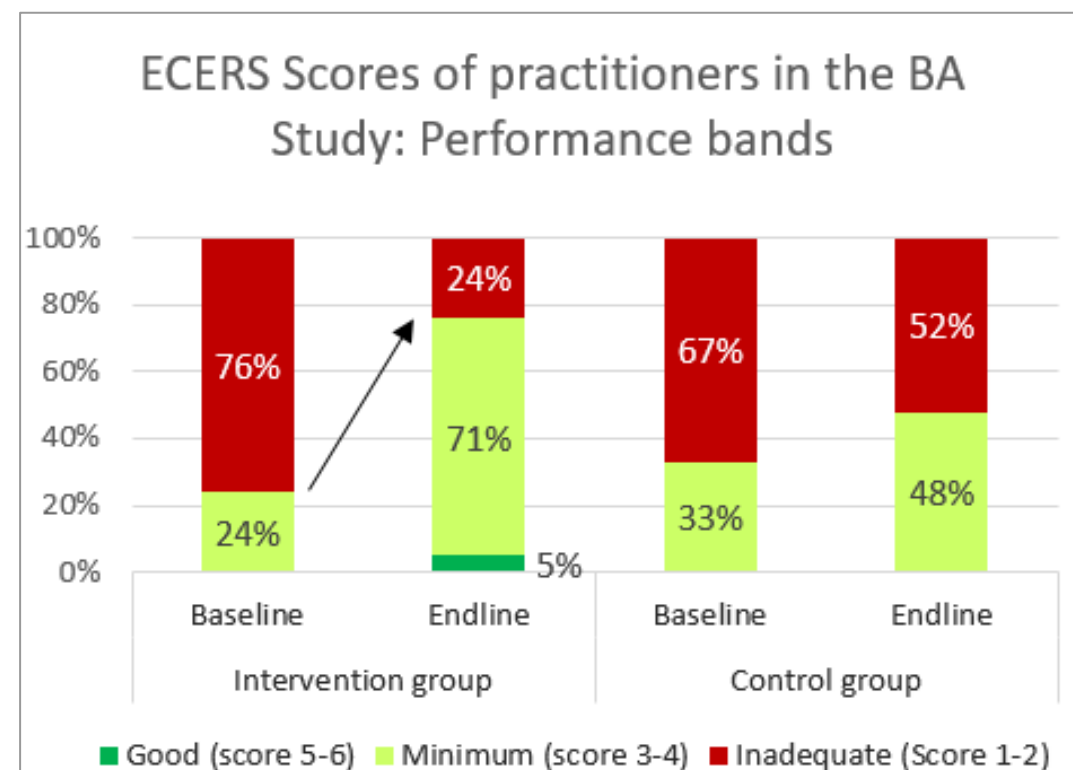
# Evidence of Impact in classrooms

## The British Academy (BA) Study

- A research study funded by the British Academy - data collection between February and September 2022
- Partnership between Wordworks, Stellenbosch University, University of Sussex and Lancaster University
- RCT methodology with control group (6 months between baseline and endline assessments)
- Participants: 56 ECD practitioners (isiXhosa and Afrikaans), 246 children.

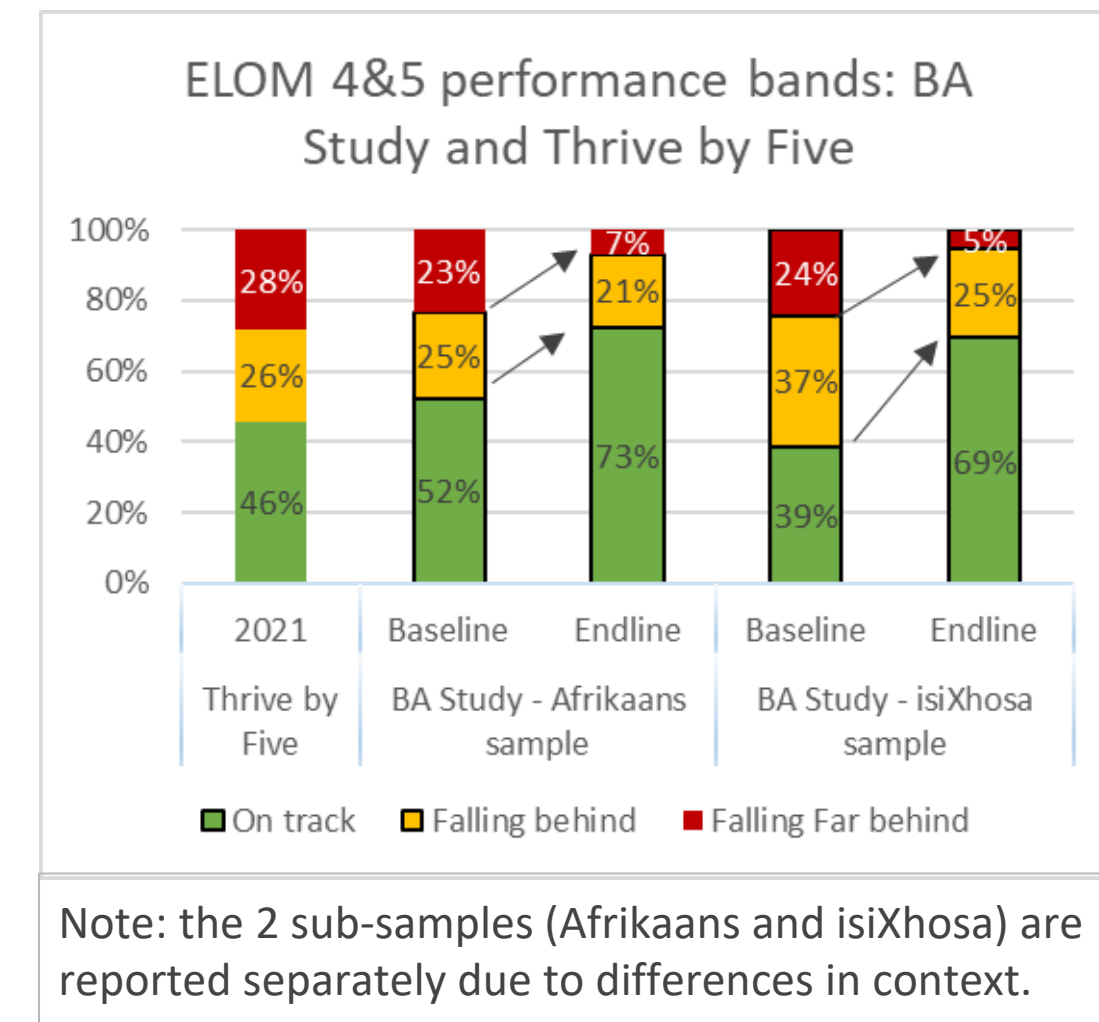
## Salient findings:

- The quality of teaching (ECERS) improved significantly more than in the control group.



Note: the ECERS Scale is calibrated for developed countries and assumes a level of resources seldom available in low-resource African contexts. This explains that scores mostly don't exceed the 3-4 band.

- In classrooms where teachers implemented the programme well, children made significantly greater gains in overall development and early language-literacy.
- After taking into account maturation and gains made by a comparable control group, the Little Stars' effect was an additional gain of **3 to 5 months** of learning for 6 months of programme exposure.
- Greater relative benefits for children from more deprived contexts.





# Thank you!

CONTACT US:

[www.wordworks.org.za](http://www.wordworks.org.za)

For general information: [info@wordworks.org.za](mailto:info@wordworks.org.za)

For ECD-specific questions: [ecd@wordworks.org.za](mailto:ecd@wordworks.org.za)

To express your interest in one of our programmes,  
you can scan the QR code and complete the form!



For more info, visit [nascee.org.za](http://nascee.org.za).