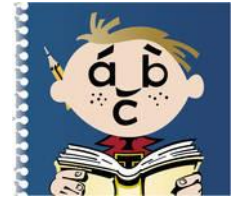


Excellent progress with the SOUNDS Early Literacy Program



From 19th to 21st September, the RCPE SOUNDS team consisting of Robin and Edie were finally able to respond to a call for help from an organisation called **One Voice** and the lady in charge, Marlijn van Berne. She had purchased a SOUNDS set from the US at a cost \$300 for use in a secondary school, Bagibile, in rural KZN. Bagibile is an excellent little school and the idea was to use the SOUNDS programme to teach literacy.

Marlijn had communicated with Brenda, and had hoped to learn the programme by using Skype but a more hands on approach was needed. Robin and Edie to the rescue – they departed from Pretoria on a mission to assist.

The staff at the school had a problem in that many pupils even in grades 8 to 10 could not read and they wished to test SOUNDS as a means to assist these pupils. In the course of a long day, Edie was able to train and ignite real enthusiasm in the staff. About 6 of the identified children were used as "guinea pigs". Kids who initially had no clue how to read simple three-letter words, quickly grasped the concept of sounding out and became proficient in reading the words. It was so evident that the kids were bright, but the system had failed them. So the day ended with smiles all round and hopefully a new centre where SOUNDS can do its thing has been established.

If the programme at Bagibile secondary school is a success, RCPE can team up with **One Voice** as a training partner and establish another centre to expand the SOUNDS programme.

In the meantime, there has been sterling progress with the 3D printing to create our own sets of the SOUNDS alphabet.



The 3D printers together with the special software programme have started to produce SOUNDS letters. Electronic manuals will be made available to students at Potchefstroom University and to PEN. PEN would like to roll the project out to Soshanguve.

Rotarians at RCPE could assist as Robin intends buying 5 printers. Some club members are prepared to host a computer and 3D printer at home or in their offices and possibly assist with sourcing containers, such as the boxes which the reams of computer paper come in, for the letters.

Winterveldt could possibly also assist with making the bags for the letters.

