

SOUNDS Early Literacy Program launches its Training Manual



In the last month, the SOUNDS project has chalked up many significant achievements. The production process of the letters has become more reliable and more than 1 set a day is now being produced by means of 3D printing. The grant budget funds 400 sets over a three-year period, so the current rate of production meets these needs.



Comprehensive training of teachers to effectively use the SOUNDS package is essential. The production success has allowed the release of many sets to new teachers:

- Peace corps received 11 sets with each one in the hands of a volunteer attached to a school in the most rural of areas in Limpopo, i.e. 11 schools are benefiting
- PEN received 5 sets (5 new crèches) at a session where about 30 teachers were trained.
- 9 sets were handed out to 9 crèches around Berakah in Mamelodi, while a total of 15 teachers receiving training.

SOUNDS is spreading

RCPE now has a commitment from the University of the North West to incorporate SOUNDS into the B. Ed. foundation phase degree curriculum. In addition, RCPE has also sourced a booklet, **Phonics 2b**, from *Books in Homes* which is a great teaching aid to introduce the vowels to learners.



Bags of SOUNDS letters

Rotarians at RCPE have assisted Robin with the implementation of the 3D printer project for SOUNDS. The 3D printers are equipped with a special software programme to produce the SOUNDS letters. Several club members host a computer and 3D printer at home or in their offices and there has been sterling progress with the 3D printing to create our own sets of the SOUNDS alphabet.

In the meantime, Edie has embarked on a sewing project to make bags for the letters instead of the bulky containers, such as the boxes which the reams of computer paper come in. One bag contains 52 letters and 4 dots, a writing board, a manual and **Phonics 2b** from *Books in Homes*.



During February, numerous training sessions were held with the Peace Corps, 6 PEN Creches and 26 Beraka creches. As from April, the Northwest University will introduce SOUNDS to their B.Ed. students. These first-year students will be trained in the use of SOUNDS with the ultimate aim of studying the impact of SOUNDS to evaluate the project.

SOUNDS Training Manual will promote literacy for early learners in Africa

Following the mass production of SOUNDS alphabet letters, the RCPE SOUNDS team launched its Training Manual – **Classroom Reference Guide** – at the beginning of February. The club now has 750 copies of the 17-page manual which is in an A5 format and full colour. The manual provides step-by-step instructions for teachers on the effective use of SOUNDS in the classroom.

Electronic manuals will be made available to students at Northwest University in Potchefstroom and to PEN. PEN would like to roll the project out to Soshanguve.

Currently quotes are being obtained for signage that will be placed at each creche where the project is implemented.

Classroom
Reference Guide
for the effective use of

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Promoting literacy for
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