

Ideas for Change

Improving the Literacy & Numeracy Scores of Learners in South Africa

Building Social Change

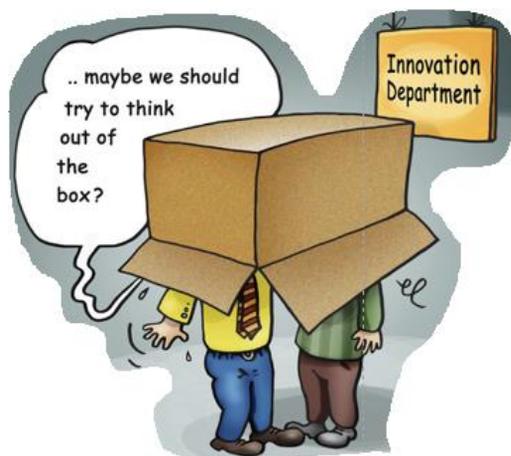


Small Ideas Equal Big Change

Skills development in South Africa has been adversely affected by the South African education system. It is a moot point at this juncture to reiterate the now well-known narrative that the South African economy and industries complain about large-scale low-level skills as a result of the education system.

Among the Challenges Facing Schools in SA Today

- Learners do not have the necessary one-on-one homework support from parents to ensure improvement;
- Educators are faced with classroom ratios (often 40:1 or more) that make it very difficult to provide the necessary one-on-one time to deal with second and third language learners who struggle with English literacy and numeracy;
- Schools need the proper resources to ensure that learners with different learning abilities and styles are accommodated;
- Educators need continuous support and training in order to ensure that the latest methods, ideas and technologies are applied in order to assist learners who face learning challenges;
- There is a need to eradicate the problem of poor literacy and numeracy in these schools over the next year.



**Trying something new!
Everything to Gain & Nothing to Lose!!!**

*"IN 2014 the matric pass rate was 78,2%.
But in 2015 the annual national assessments found only 37% of grade 9 pupils could be considered literate and only 3% were numerate."*

Business Day Live



By All Means Necessary

We want to eradicate poor literacy and numeracy in our schools

We want to make sure that every child in our schools is able to receive the grounding in literacy and numeracy in order to find their place in society



5 Proven Steps to Learning Success in South African Schools

Embedding a Culture of Literacy in Schools Whilst Instilling a Love and Appreciation for Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy skills are often inter-related. Both rely on a range of mutually connected skills. What is also a fact is that both literacy and numeracy needs constant practice for mastery. We need to create and promote spaces for exercising literacy and numeracy skills in a determined and fun fashion. Reading and counting should be social, fun and yet also realistically monitored and measured, in order to determine support areas and to provide evidence of progress. Good literacy and numeracy skills allows for increased learner self-esteem, learning motivation and academic determination. Outlined below are 5 steps in literacy and numeracy promotion practiced by many learner-centred schools across the world. These strategies are neither expensive, nor difficult but they do require serious teeth-baring political-will accompanied by a consistent approach and above all, a good monitoring and evaluation strategy.

Recommended Change Intervention

Screen-free nights (no TV, computers, cellphones etc.): Canvass support from parents and learners by promoting two screen-free nights a week, for example on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Why is this Important?

It promotes frontal lobe brain activation through play and creativity and also activates learning and insight, logic and understanding. Where play involves drawing, using wooden blocks, self-made toys, reading - even better. Encourage learners to play games, especially with objects, tennis balls, skipping etc. Schools should show learners some of these games. Allow them to be played at school during break times, for example. This provides an opportunity to practice a range of movement skills necessary for reading such as eye-tracking and copying as well as counting skills etc. Schools need to remind parents that electronic and screen devices are not necessarily bad. Free and creative play needs to be promoted while limiting screen devices to say 30 min a day (except on screen free days) while on weekends this can be increased to two hours per day. Try not to use screen devices after dark, especially before bedtime as these interfere with sleep quality and therefore concentration, attention and memory the following day.

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Opportunity for Change

All your school needs is a computer, laptop or tablet (with internet access) that can be used for Literacy & Numeracy assessments

**Learner Profiler:
Efficient, cost-effective and
precision based
interventions**

**Instant Literacy & Numeracy
Statistics & Reports**



5 Proven Steps to Learning Success in South African Schools

Recommended Change Intervention

Read Aloud: At home, it is recommended that an adult read for 15 minutes to the child. Decide together on an interesting part in a library book.

Why is This Important?

The child learns the value of reading, hears the correct pronunciation and explores a wider vocabulary in reading and spoken language.

Recommended Change Intervention

Every child to enrol at local or school library (where possible): Request quick summary report backs per individual learner in class.

Why is this Important?

Learners are guided to access reading material. The oversight through random audits and requests for story-telling feedback, promotes listening comprehension and verbal skills among learning group/peers.

Recommended Change Intervention

Twice a week at school: Reading for 30 min in or outside of class. Also older learners to partner with younger readers: Find space on school grounds and read. Educators are roaming facilitators.

Why is this Important?

The child learns to read aloud promoting reading pronunciation, reading speed and fluency, listening and reading comprehension.

Recommended Change Intervention

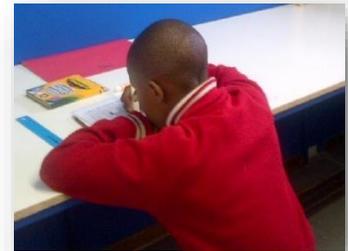
Rap & Clap: 5 min a day freestyle rap or singing often accompanied by hand clapping, feet tapping or stomping.

Why is This Important?

Promotes syllabification, word memory, verbal and auditory memory and a great speech development exercise. It also promotes stress reduction. Stress is a massive problem implicated in many learning challenges. Syllabification is a phonological and auditory skill involved in sounding out and breaking up words, especially new words that have never been seen before. This skill is the foundation of reading, without it the learning of new written content, vocabulary and related words in a new career is virtually stunted.

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Each of us has a unique profile



For a
**Screening, Identification,
Assessment and Support
(SIAS) Tool**

Literacy & Numeracy

Screen
Identify
Measure (track)
Support

These strategies are not expensive, nor difficult but do require serious teeth-baring political-will accompanied by a consistent approach and above all a good monitoring and evaluation strategy.

SIAS Aligned Assessment Tool Screens for Literacy, Numeracy & Other Support Needs

Contact the Project Coordinator

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