**Writing for real**

Have you noticed how young children seem to learn without very much effort at all? Think about what six year olds know and can do with language!

Babies start off not being able to use any language at all and then gradually, by observing, learning to listen and copying those around them, they begin to talk. Of course their first attempts are not perfect, but over time they get better and better at using spoken language. They start to talk because they want to communicate with those around them. They get better at it because the adults in their lives help them by encouraging them – by talking and listening to them.

Learning to write is not very different from learning to talk! When children see print around them and watch the people they love using writing in their daily lives, they become curious about writing. They see us using writing to communicate and interact with each other and then, when they have something they want to communicate, they give writing a try! Their first squiggles may just be “pretend writing” and may not look anything like the letters we use but these are the first steps in using writing to communicate. And then, just like with learning to talk, children get better and better at writing when we encourage them – by writing with and to them, and by reading what they write.

Here are three easy ways to help develop your children’s writing:

• Show them that you value what they write.
• Show them the different ways you use writing. Let your children see you writing – making a shopping list, writing appointments on a calendar, writing a letter or an email, keeping a journal in which you record your thoughts, ideas and/or feelings.
• Show them that they value what they write. If your child writes something to you, write back to them. Also, display their drawings and writing at home – the front of the fridge makes a great display gallery!

For more information and ideas on developing children’s writing, visit “Tips and topics” on www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

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**Ho ngola e le ka nnete**

Na o lemolhele kamoso bana ba bonyane ba ifuthang ri le batho boake ka bofe? Nahana ka seo bana ba lemo tsheletseng ba se tsengabeng le ho ka se e tsa bofe ka puo!

Bana ba qula ba sa tsebie ho sebedisa efo eke efe hohang mmee ebe bille-bille ba ba nka ba shebella batho bofe bang, ba mamelotse ho ka kapisho ho batho bofe phethang le bana, ba qula ho bua. Dilo, ba ha ba qula ho itlelo ha ba bue ka ho phethahane, empa ha nako e ntswele e ho ba eba betere ho sebedisa efo eke efe puo e budo. Ba qula ho bua ho bana ba sebedisa batho bofe phethang le bana. Ba ebe betere hohang batho bofe phethang le bana ba bana ho kgothatsa – ka ba bana batla ba ba mama.

Ho ithutha ho ngola ha o tafoana hakoakao ho le ithutha ho bua! Ha bana ba bana monolo moo ba phethang teng mmee ba shebella batho baa ba ba ratang ba sebedisa mongolo na hlehelo a bana a komele; ba ba le tseleho ya ho ngola. (Ba re bana re sebedisa mongolo bakeng sa ho kagotho le ho buisanase mmee ebe ha ba na le o ba bana ho baa le sebedisa efo eke efe puo e budo. Ba qula ha bua ho bana ba sebedisa batho bofe phethang le bana. Ha bana batla ba le kgotho ka ho kgotho – ka ba bana batla ba ba mama.

**Bakeng sa tlhahisoleseding e nngwe**

Ho ngola e le ka nnete

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**Re seyalemoyeng!**

Eba le rona dinakong tse lablang mme o mamele dupale ka Sesothe le Senyesemanene lemane ne lona le letjha la radijo la Nal’ibali!

Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohloko ho tloha ka 9.45a.m. ho fihleta ka 10.00a.m.

SAPFm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

**We’re on radio!**

Join us at the following times and listen to stories in Sesothe and in English on our new Nal’ibali radio programme:

Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohloko ho tloha ka 9.45a.m. ho fihleta ka 10.00a.m.

SAPFm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Driving your imagination**

Bakeng sa tlhahisoleseding e nngwe le mehopolo bakeng sa ho nthetsa pele mongolo wa bana, etela “Tips and topics” (Dikeletso le dihlooho) ho www. nalibali.org ka Nal’ibali mobi.
At Kannemeyer Primary School in Grassy Park, the reading club is thriving because of enthusiastic Grade 2 teacher, Felicia Watson. Felicia started the club after attending a Nal’ibali training session in 2012. Now 63 passionate readers attend the club every Wednesday afternoon. We spoke to Felicia about the club and reading.

What motivates you to run the reading club?
It is wonderful to watch the children grow into literate members of society who enjoy writing and reading and can use what they learn from stories.

What is one of the main challenges the children face?
Not enough books! But we received book donations from the Centre for the Book and from Biblionef through Nal’ibali. Of course we also receive the Nal’ibali supplements each week! We have now developed a system where the children can borrow books from the reading club.

Tell us about some of the activities you do.
The children read, write poetry and play word games – most of all we just have fun!

How do you encourage children to join the club?
We display the members’ work around our school in the hope that this will encourage other children to read and write too.

Have you seen any improvement in the club members?
Yes! They have not only improved their reading and writing skills, but have also gained the confidence to speak in front of an audience, and confidently choose different texts to read.

Why is it important to encourage young people to read?
Reading is good for their self esteem, it uplifts them, increases their awareness of themselves and others, and makes them think!

Who are your favourite children’s authors?
Niki Daly, Julia Donaldson and Dr Seuss. I love sharing stories by these authors with themselves and others, and makes them think!

What advice do you have for people wanting to start a reading club?
Just do it! Network! Register with Nal’ibali! There are many people who are willing to help you.

Across the country, individuals and organisations are finding ways to make reading and writing part of children’s daily lives. To say thank you, our featured Story Stars will receive meal vouchers* courtesy of Wimpy to enjoy with the children in whose lives they are making a difference.

* For terms and conditions that apply, go to www.nalibali.org/story-stars.

Create your own mini-book
1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.
2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold it in half again.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

ikeletse bunaka ya hao
1. Ntsha ke kapefe la 3 ho isa ho la 6 bukaneng ena ya ketsweta.
2. Le mene ka halafu hadima malo o matheba a matheba.
3. Le mene ka halafu haphe.
4. Saha hadima malo ea matheba a mathebedu.
A long way to Baba is one of 36 stories available in the Little Library Kits for Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills. Each kit contains 60 readers (5 copies of 12 stories), 12 big books, 12 posters and a comprehensive teacher’s guide. The readers and the big books are available in all 11 official languages. For more information please visit our website www.cup.co.za.

We got in the taxi. We drove past many farms.

Suddenly the taxi stopped!

It's a flat tyre, cried the taxi driver.

"Oh no," I said. "We'll be late."

Baba gave us all presents.
We were all very happy.
Guess what I got?

Ntate a re fa dimpho.
Kaofela re ne re thabile haholo.
Nahana feela hore ke fumane eng?
The train started to move. Tssss tsssss tssssss!

The train went faster and faster. My sister fell asleep. I looked at Mma’s watch. It was 9 o’clock.

"Wake up," said Mma. "We are going to see Baba today."

We got dressed. "It’s half past five," Mma said. "We must hurry."

We looked out of the window. We saw many houses.

We walked along the road.

My sister sang a song.

“Baba is waiting for us
Baba is waiting for us.”


“Ntate o re emetse,
Ntate o re emetse.”

The train stopped at the station.

*Tssss tssss tssss*
It was 12 o’clock. We were in Johannesburg!

Terene ya ema seteisheneng.
*Ntsi-1!*
E ne e le hora ya leshome le metso e mmedi.
Re re fihliile Johannesburg!
Get story active!

After you and your children have read A long way to Baba, try out some of these ideas.

- Look at the pictures together and draw your children’s attention to the different types of transport the family used. Ask them which ones they have used before.
- Have you and your children ever travelled on a long journey? Talk about where you went and how you got there. What other things do your children remember about the journey?
- Are your children learning to tell the time? Read the story again, pausing to allow them to guess what the time is by looking at the clocks.
- Do you know songs or rhymes that have something to do with time or clocks? Here is an example of an English rhyme:

Hickory, Dickory Dock

The mouse ran up the clock
The clock struck one, the mouse ran down
Hickory, Dickory Dock.

- Let's try out some African songs and rhymes. Here is a well known Xhosa rhyme:

Ntshwa-zA
Ndishwa a-LA
Ndishwa a-LA
Ndishwa a-LA
Ndishwa a-LA

- Divide the groups into three or four. Let the groups swap pictures. Invite older children to write a story that is inspired by the picture they received. Let your children talk about the picture they received and use it to tell a story of their own.
- Display the stories and pictures for children to read and enjoy!

Reading club corner

In South Africa we celebrate Arbor Week from 1–7 September. Trees often feature in children’s stories – sometimes as talking trees and other times as forests that story characters travel through or hide in! Here is an idea for creating your own “tree” stories for your club.

- Divide the children into groups of three or four.
- Give each group a large sheet of paper and crayons. Ask them to draw a picture that tells a story and that includes a tree.
- Ask the groups to swap pictures. Invite older children to write a story that is inspired by the picture they received. Let your children talk about the picture they received and use it to tell a story of their own.
- Display the stories and pictures for children to read and enjoy!

Eba mahlahlahla bakeng sa pale!

Kamora hoba wena le bana ba hao le bale Bala e telele e yang ho Ntate, leka e meng ya mehopolo ena.

- Shebang ditshwantsho mmo mo mme o hulele thhaseliso ya bana meluteng e tapaneng ya dipalangwang tseo lelapa le neng le di sebedisa. Ba bote hore ke seafe ba kiting ba se sebedisa.
- Na wena le bana ba hao le kide ka naka letso le le lelele. Buang ka hore le le la ke la le hore le ne le fruite wam u. Ke dintho dife tse ding tseo bana ba bao di hopalong ka lela lea?
- Na bana ba hao bao ke boxha ho baoletla nako? Bala pale hape, o ntse o kigutsha ho ba dumella ho lepa hore nako ka mang ka ho sheba dwatlheng.
- Na o a tseba dipina kapa dinaae le tse nang le ho hong ka nako kaka dinaa? Mohlala wa raame ya Senekeyane ka ana.

Days to celebrate in September and October

Choose some of these days to celebrate at your club.

1−7 September: Arbor Week
2−7 September: National Book Week
7 September: Eric Hill’s birthday (author and illustrator who created the Spot books which are popular with young children)
13 September: International Literacy Day
21 September: International Day of Peace
24 September: Heritage Day
1 October: World Bullying Prevention Day; International Older Persons’ Day
4 October: World Animal Day
5 October: World Teacher’s Day
31 October: Halloween

Matsatsi a ketekwano ka Leotse le Mphalanthe

Kgeha a mangles a matsatsi aong also ka ketekeketlapeng ya ho.

1−7 Leotse: Beke ya Tla ya Ditse
2−7 Leotse: Beke ya Dipula ya Napha
8 Leotse: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Tsepo ya ho Bala le ho Nqala
13 Leotse: Letsatsi le Roald Dahl Day (marodi le tse tsetlakeng dikegwe ya matla letshitsho ho bana bao di phate) ya hetsha leleng dikegwe ya matla letshitsho ho Mphalanthe.
21 Leotse: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Kgatso
24 Leotse: Letsatsi le Rapha
1 Mphalanthe: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Thibela ya Bantwana
3 Mphalanthe: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Tsepo ya ho Balo ya Nqala
4 Mphalanthe: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Tsepo ya ho Balo ya Nqala
5 Mphalanthe: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Tsepo ya ho Balo ya Nqala
31 Mphalanthe: Letsatsi le Mthapha le Tsepo ya ho Balo ya Nqala

Huku ya tlelapo ya ho bale


- Arola bana ka dithwathwa tsa ba banora kapa bane.
- Efa sefihlo ka seng leqephe le leholohadi mme o hulele thahasello ya bana mefuteng e lelo.
- Mem ka bana ba balebalewane ho nqala pale e ho Nkelehlelitsweeng ke se futhi se bafuteng se ho bana se re bafetse.
- Ere dihipho di lapanetsane ka phoane. Mema bana ba balebalewane ho nqala pale e ho Nkholelelitsweeng ke se futhi se bafuteng se ho bana se re bafuteng se ho bape le se sebedisa ho phola pale e ho lelo.
- Maneha dipole le ditshwantsho mmo di bongwang hore bana ba di bale le ho natelefa!

Tlo a tlo ba le rono!

Nal’ibali will be at the first-ever isiXhosa Children’s Story Festival from 6–8 September 2013 in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape. Puku Children’s Literature Foundation, the National Arts Festival and Rhodes University will be hosting this exciting event. The festival will bring together storytelling, song, dance and books in a joyous celebration of isiXhosa. To find out more go to www.puku.co.za.
The magic paintbrush

Wendy Hartmann

The rich man invited all his friends to come to his home. “Sit down and watch this,” he said. He then painted lots of pictures with the magic paintbrush.

“You want a sea. I want a mountain made of gold,” said the rich man. “I want to collect all the gold.”

Ho picked up his magic paintbrush and painted a sea. This made the rich man angry.

“Why did you paint a sea? I don’t want a sea. I want a mountain made of gold. Now hurry up and paint it!” he said.

So Ho painted a mountain made of gold on the other side of the sea. “You will have to cross the sea to get there.”

“This is not a big ship that I can cross the sea,” said the rich man.

“Then quickly paint a big ship so that I can cross the sea,” Ho said.

Ho smiled and painted a big ship. He had hardly finished when the rich man jumped into the ship. Quickly his family and friends jumped in too and they sailed away.

Ho watched them carefully. He waited until the ship had sailed into the middle of the sea, then he painted a big wave. The wave rushed towards the ship. When it was close – CRASH! – it covered the ship and broke it into a thousand pieces.

“Nothing except gold, broken pieces of a ship and a very angry rich man, his family and all his friends,” Ho said.

Sometimes he would look across the sea at the mountain made of gold. No one ever went there because there was nothing there except gold. Well …

“Why did you paint a sea?” shouted the rich man.

“Then quickly paint a big ship so I can get there,” he said.

Ho picked up his magic paintbrush and painted a sea. This made the rich man even angrier.

“Now hurry up and paint it,” Ho said.

Ho had almost finished when the rich man said, “I want a sea. I want a mountain made of gold. Now hurry up and paint it!”

“Why did you paint a sea? I don’t want a sea. I want a mountain made of gold.”

“Nothing except gold, broken pieces of a ship and a very angry rich man, his family and all his friends,” Ho said.

Tell us if you liked the story, The magic paintbrush – SMS

“Bookmark” with your name and your comments to 32545. R1.00 per SMS.

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

- Celebrate International Literacy Day with us
- Story Stars: Pedro, the Music Man
- Build your own Nal’ibali Literacy Day picture
- A Nal’ibali story. It started with a puppy
- A zigzag book for babies, Go!

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Re fumane ho Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA

Ena ke karolo ya ho qetela ya pale e mabapi le Ho le borashe ba hae ba mehlolo. Natelelewang ke ho e bala hodimo kapa ho e phetela bana!

Borashe ba hoko taka ba mehlolo

Karlo ya 2) E phetwa hape ke Wendy Hartmann

Monna wa moru a mema metswawle yohle ya hae hore e fe le hae hae. “Dulong fatehe le shebelle mona,” a nalo. Yabo a o taka dithwawantho tse ngato ka borashe ba hoko taka. Brhle ba shebella, ba shebella … ba shebella, empa! Ho le ho le dithwawitho se le seng se iseng le sefela sa phela.

“Ho etshatalo?” ho ho le felaetsa mona wa moru. “Tsa khumaga the late Ho le mo like mona?”

Ho a le a fiskwa ka pela monna wa moru. Empa jwale Ho a ne a se a seho hore monna ea ke moikgobogomosi e bile e kgoaro.

“Ho le ho le dithwawitho tse iseng,” ho na nalo monna wa moru. “Mme se felaetsa ho le tsha bokella se ho le re ho le le felaetsa. Le felaetsa se felaetsa ka kone ho le felaetsa.

Pele, Ho a le fiskwa. Yabo a ba le lae sekepe. “Ho lofela, ke fia etso jwale,” Ho a araba.

“Ntho ya pale eo ke bantlang hore e te te ka thaba e KGOLLO e entsweng ka kgaotla,” ho na nalo monna wa moru. “Ke batla ho bolela ka kgaotla e ka lefela.”

Ho a naka borashe ba hoko taka ba mehlolo mme a taka lekwaile. Sena sa helaetsa monna wa moru.

“Habang ho a taka lekwaile? Ho le ka bokella lekwaile. Ke bokerra te ka entsweng ka kgaotla. Jwale, phakisa e o taka.”

Jwale Ho a taka bokella te ka entsweng ka kgaotla e kana ho le felaetsa. “O fela faneha ho tsa lekwaile lela ho ya fa fa ma mane,” a bolela jwale.

“Taka le sekepe se seho ho hore he kgone le ho tsa lekwaile lela.”

Ha lela monna wa moru.

Ho a bososele mme a taka sekepe se seho. O ne a so a qeta ho moru a monna a lekelela sekele phefele. Ko potlako ba lelaetsa ho le metswawle ya hae ba lekelela ka hore le sekepe le bana mme ba kgana sekepe ho le lelwaile.

Ho a le felaetsa ka kgoaro. O le a emela hore sekepe se felaetsa bo ka bokella, mme a taka lefela le ho lelaetsa le felaetsa. Lefela le ho ho ho le felaetsa seka seka le ka kgaotla e kaentsweng.

Kamara moo, Ho a phela le mona. O ne a ne a le di o tse lekaeng ho ke ka ya. O ne a tsha bokella ba le na le felaetsa le felaetsa. Lefela le ho ho ho le felaetsa.

“Ho se se se tshwate – GAU!” – le kwaetsela seka le ka bana se ka kgaotla dikotswana tsa ngatanga.

“Mme tsa fetoha tse itseng,” ha rialo monna wa morui, “Mo tlise mona!”

“Ho etsahalang?” ha hoeletsa monna wa morui. “Tsamayang le late Ho le le le ka le felaetsa. Seho se sa se sa ho sa cha le se sa cha ho le seho!”

Ho etsahalang? Ko potlako ba setla ho le felaetsa le lelaetsa le lelaetsa le seho se ho sa sa ho sa cha ho le seho. Ho etsahalang? Ho le felaetsa se ho seho se ho sa se sa ho sa cha ho le seho. Ha lelaetsa le lelaetsa le lelaetsa le seho se ho sa sa ho sa cha ho le seho.

Re bolele hore o ratile pale ena na, Borashe ba ho taka ba mehlolo – SMSa “Bookmark” mmoalo le lekha la hae le dithwaelo tsa hae ho 32545. R1.00 SMS ka ngwe.