



Project Literacy: Transforming Lives Through Literacy, Learning, and Opportunity

As part of the Right to Read Campaign's commitment to showcasing organisations that are transforming literacy outcomes in South Africa, we are proud to spotlight **Project Literacy**, one of the country's longest standing and most innovative educational non-profit organisations.

Established in **1973**, Project Literacy has spent more than five decades advancing literacy, education, skills development, and lifelong learning opportunities for children, youth, and adults across South Africa. Widely recognised as a pioneer in the **Adult Education and Training (AET)** sector, the organisation has empowered thousands of South Africans with literacy and numeracy skills, accredited learning opportunities, and pathways to economic participation and personal growth.

As an **accredited education and training provider**, Project Literacy continues to respond to South Africa's educational challenges through innovative, community-based solutions that strengthen literacy development from early childhood through adulthood. Today, its programmes reach learners, families, and communities across multiple provinces, contributing to educational success, social inclusion, and economic development.

Championing Literacy Across Generations

Project Literacy's approach is grounded in the belief that literacy development begins at home and is strengthened through community support.

One of the organisation's flagship programmes, **Run Home to Read (RHTR)**, has been transforming family literacy outcomes for over **20 years**. This intergenerational literacy programme equips caregivers, parents, and children with the skills, confidence, and resources needed to create literacy-rich home environments where reading in mother-tongue becomes a shared family experience.

Through guided reading activities, book-sharing sessions, caregiver coaching, and access to quality reading materials, Run Home to Read empowers parents and caregivers to become active participants in their children's learning journeys. By nurturing a culture of reading within households, the programme helps establish strong literacy foundations that support lifelong learning and academic success.

Over the past two decades, Run Home to Read has impacted thousands of families, proving that meaningful literacy development extends beyond the classroom and into the home.

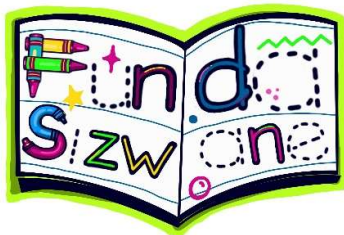


Strengthening Foundation Phase Learning Through Mother Tongue Education

Project Literacy's commitment to improving reading outcomes is further demonstrated through its innovative **Funda Sizwane Programme**, which supports Foundation Phase learners in developing literacy, language, and comprehension skills through their mother tongue.

Implemented across multiple provinces, Funda Sizwane provides curriculum-aligned supplementary learning resources designed to improve learners' understanding of the CAPS curriculum. By using home-language instruction and culturally relevant learning materials, the programme helps learners build strong foundational literacy skills, improve comprehension, and engage more confidently with classroom learning.

Research has consistently shown that children learn most effectively when foundational concepts are introduced in a language they understand. Through Funda Sizwane, Project Literacy helps bridge learning gaps, improve educational outcomes, and ensure that children have a stronger platform from which to progress academically.



Taking Libraries to Learners Through the Big Blue Book Bus

Access to books remains one of the greatest barriers to literacy development in many South African schools. To address this challenge, Project Literacy, in partnership with the **F.H. Chamberlain Trust**, operates the **Big Blue Book Bus**, a mobile library initiative that brings books and library services directly to primary schools that do not have functional libraries.

Serving schools across Gauteng, the Big Blue Book Bus provides learners with access to a diverse collection of age-appropriate reading materials, literacy resources, and library services that would otherwise be unavailable in their communities.

More than simply delivering books, the initiative cultivates a love of reading, encourages independent book borrowing, and creates excitement around literacy. By making quality reading materials accessible to learners in underserved communities, the Big Blue Book Bus directly contributes to improving reading outcomes and nurturing a lifelong reading culture.



Creating Readers, Leaders, and Literacy Ambassadors

The impact of Project Literacy's programmes extends beyond improved literacy skills.

In 2026, two learners supported through Project Literacy programmes earned the distinction of representing their respective provinces at the **National Reading Riot**, showcasing the transformative power of literacy interventions.

One learner from **Phikiswayo Primary School** in KwaZulu-Natal, participating through the **Funda Sizwane Programme**, and another from **Isaac More Primary School** in Gauteng, supported through the **Big Blue Book Bus Programme**, were selected to represent their provinces on a national platform.

Their participation highlighted the confidence, communication skills, leadership potential, and reading proficiency that can emerge when learners receive consistent support, encouragement, and access to quality literacy programmes. These young ambassadors stand as living examples of the impact Project Literacy continues to make in communities across South Africa.

Building Sustainable Communities Through Strategic Partnerships

At the heart of Project Literacy's work is the belief that transforming South Africa's education ecosystem requires meaningful collaboration between civil society, government, communities, and the private sector.

As a trusted implementation partner with more than 50 years of experience in literacy and education development, Project Literacy actively seeks partnerships with corporate organisations that are committed to creating measurable and sustainable social impact.

The organisation's programmes support children and families from the comfort of their homes, within their schools, and throughout their communities, ensuring that learners have access to the resources, support structures, and opportunities necessary to succeed academically and contribute meaningfully to the future economic growth of their communities.

Through strategic corporate partnerships, Project Literacy is able to expand access to books, improve literacy outcomes, strengthen educational support systems, and create opportunities that benefit both current and future generations. Every investment in literacy represents an investment in stronger communities, a more skilled workforce, and a more prosperous South Africa.

Creating Employment Pathways for South African Youth

Project Literacy recognises that educational inequality and youth unemployment are interconnected challenges that require integrated solutions.

As a result, its programmes are intentionally designed not only to improve literacy outcomes but also to create meaningful employment and skills development opportunities for young people within the communities they serve.

Through the **Run Home to Read Programme**, Project Literacy recruits, trains, mentors, and employs unemployed matriculants from local communities as Literacy Facilitators. These

young people gain practical experience in literacy promotion, caregiver engagement, programme facilitation, and community development while serving as positive role models within their communities.

Similarly, the **Funda Sizwane Programme** creates employment opportunities for unemployed graduates in the education sector. Graduates are trained and employed as Education Facilitators, providing literacy and curriculum support to Foundation Phase learners while gaining valuable educational and professional experience.

Importantly, Project Literacy's commitment extends beyond temporary employment. Participants receive ongoing training, mentorship, coaching, leadership development, and access to professional resources that strengthen their long-term employability and entrepreneurial potential.

By equipping young people with practical workplace experience, transferable skills, educational expertise, and professional development opportunities, Project Literacy helps them establish sustainable livelihoods that extend beyond the programme stipends they receive. This investment in youth development creates a ripple effect that benefits families, schools, communities, and local economies.

Why Project Literacy's Work Matters

South Africa continues to face significant literacy and education challenges, with many children unable to read for meaning by the end of the Foundation Phase and many young people struggling to access meaningful employment opportunities.

Project Literacy's response is both holistic and sustainable.

For over five decades, the organisation has demonstrated how literacy can become a powerful catalyst for educational achievement, social inclusion, economic empowerment, and community development. Through accredited adult education and training, family literacy programmes, Foundation Phase support initiatives, mobile library services, youth employment pathways, and community-based capacity building, Project Literacy has positioned itself as one of South Africa's most impactful literacy organisations.

Its work aligns closely with the principles championed by the Right to Read Campaign: ensuring access to books, promoting reading in home languages, empowering caregivers, strengthening learning environments, and advocating for every child's right to read for meaning.

As South Africa continues its efforts to improve literacy outcomes and build a stronger education system, Project Literacy remains at the forefront of innovative, community-driven solutions that change lives. Through partnership, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to educational equity, the organisation is helping to build a future where every child, every family, and every community have the opportunity to learn, thrive, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

For more information about Project Literacy and partnership opportunities, visit:

<https://projectliteracy.org.za/> WhatsApp us on 069 874 8748