

THE TEACHERS' AND FACILITATORS' REPORT FOR THE RASA CONFERENCE

16 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2011.

I was very surprised to see all these people at the RASA conference of UCT. I have learned a lot about presentations. They were all talking about literacy. I enjoyed it and I have learned all about the ideas we have shared. I believe this conference was powerful and an influential experience of sharing the wealth of knowledge in the literacy field and share these lessons learned with our learners and our students who will be our next empowered leaders. I really like these words which were spoken by Graham Bloch: "Going forward: Yes, we can! Fixing our schools." The conference did open my mind and it was fruitful. I really enjoyed it because it was all about literacy.

And I can say again Adele, thank you very much for what you have done for us with your efforts and kindness.

Mabel Rens (creche)

The conference itself was so fascinating for me and so wonderful; it also creates the spirit of writing more and more learning more skills of dealing with a learner. I also grew the passion of teaching seeing teaching on a positive side because I used to get the negative reports about the teaching and without knowing anything about literacy. What I also learned about literacy is that it has been undermined for a long time. It was regarded as that it has to be done by the learners who do not perform very well at school. According to Mrs. V. Dlamini Akintola defines literacy as language in action, because of this negative attitude towards literacy even teachers of literacy got also discouraged because of the lack of support. The community itself does not support the literacy as the result it causes a big problem even to the higher institution because of this poor literacy background. Even though it's like that wherever there is a problem there is a solution. What are we doing now to create we have to support by motivating children by using the enjoyable space for children to experience literacy. Also to strengthen home school links and also to provide a forum for parents and other community members like whereby they can start a reading clubs. Creating a culture of reading and also the story telling those things can motivate our learners so that they can see that it's not only them, but it's something that should be done by everyone. I was also encouraged by Maria Basson who is the volunteer she says she is been reading for the kids in her community for a long time and she has a passion for reading. Rochelle David was one the people who inspires me sharing about the other ways of motivating reading in the classroom and also social learning which is the community, families and even at schools that everyone must a passion and a desire to learn.

She also mentioned the other two things that motivate kids to learn: 1.intrinsic motivation this is like the learner value and loves reading 2.Extrinsic motivation: This one the learner reads just because there will be a reward or being of punishment

There is a lot there that I have gained and I was also revived in doing things that I did not know that I can Cheryl Logan is the other person who inspires me in terms of writing everything she was about writing it was like someone told her about me. Everything that she had quoted it was like the things I was having in my mind like I didn't know that I was so talkative in terms of writing. All the things that I have learned I am going to them in practice in fact some of them I have already started to practice and there is a positive response looking forward to good results and also to another Rasa conference

Nomzamo Ndiki (Aftercare)

○ RASA FEEDBACK

Attending RASA conference has made me realise that I'm missing out. I have made a vow to myself that I will open a reading club and I will spread the love of reading & writing into Kayamandi as a whole. I have noticed that people are doing something out there, but I am doing nothing for my community & for myself. Lone& Setumile two lectures from Botswana University has made a difference for the youth of Mohsupa Village who dropped out from school &were engaged in drugs,alcohol, theft, pregnancies etc. By allowing them to finish their studies and to do activities such as art, pottery, carpentry,painting etc.&I have made contacts with them. I also enjoyed Taadi Ruth Modipa's family literacy DVD which focused mainly in parents involvement in reading & writing at home, a parent has to read to a child, vice versa,which I made contact with during break, which in return gave me her latest family literacy DVD to watch at home.

I also enjoyed Nozuko Zukiswa Gxekwa's presentation of culture as barrier in the classroom, I also made a contact with her and she told me that she is a lecture IN education at CPUT & I told her that next year I'm doing my Bed with UNISA & offered to assist me with notes. When Cheryl Logan from USA presented the importance of writing & the writing course that they are offering, I was surprised to hear that even the Professional Teachers find it difficult to write, but expect children to write& the other teacher admitted that she did not know that she was talkative on paper until the writing course & Nososi an English teacher from Langa advised us to participate in the writing course.

Even the opening of the conference was good to me, to be opened by watching a DVD of a 86 year old Kenyan man who has fought for freedom & believed that time has come for him to read & write & was refused his right to read because of his age & now is toy-toying for a right to education at his age, & I'm looking forward to go & watch it at the Cinema. I also enjoyed tea wth publishers and to find books that I really need and free books to use in classroom.

I enjoyed being away, I wish I can reverse the days. Having to meet new people all over the world, never thought that. I also learn to teach for the love of reading &to let children use their imagination,visualise,connect; get rid of what,why,where,why etc. but let them think!Fantastic! On the last day names were mixed,& those who were lucky received a new book and I'm happy to say, me too I was one of them and my book name is Literacy Leadership;I think it is based on me, there's a reason for me to own this book. I'm looking forward to change my community for good,everything have a reason, God is behind this. All in all I enjoyed every minute I spent there I don't feel sorry for that decision I've

taken to attend the RASA conference. I also saw a challenge for next year that we also have to present what we are doing here at the Trust. Thank you Zenex, Adele and Ikhaya Trust

Noziphiwo Ndaleni (preschool)

What I learned: lots of things from this like how to make kids love reading and you must attract them by involving them. How? Let them choose the books that they like. Introduce on language cause it is a need for the kids to be introduce in English cause it is good for them to communicate. What I see is Literacy is the key of all doors but I did not realize that at first but now I did because of you I do meet a lot of people. Networking was very good. Thanks to Adele for making all the arrangements for us.

Lumka Vava Ntloni

On the 16-09-2011 I went to **UCT RASA CONFERENCE**. When we came there first of all we went to the registration office to get our tag with bags. I met a lot of friends like strand staff. I also met Kuilsriver friends. On Saturday I speak to Maria she is helping one of the schoolsto volunteer. She says she likes to read, she have feelings for reading. She's also doing pot games and she also help when there is no teacher on that day or sick. They call her to come. I also met a USA Ambassador she came to me and ask what I am doing .I explained to the person represented, their speeches was wonderful on my side but I wrote a lot on my diary every section I learn. Thank you Adele to let us know about the RASA CONFERENCE also opens our mind and know more; about reading and writing also to the TRUST CENTRE. From IDRENE MRALI

Reading Association of South Africa

In the conference I gained a lot of information

In : A linguist's reflection on multilingual mobile literacies

It was said that minimum time should be set aside for additional languages, to assist learners struggling with additional languages.

Practice as to what people are using in communication. Youth or people like or enjoy playing with words for example : abbreviations used on Facebook or mxit.

Digital literacies

“Technology is not the wave of the future is the Tsunami of the present”

Stories can be shared through countries and schools, through web link using PowerPoint. Teachers can use blog to communicate with parents of learners on creative writing sites such as wikispace.

Ideas can be gained from these sites

- Youblisher.com
- www.wallwisher.com :onsite stories
- Storystarter.com :onsite stories
- Storyjumper.com :online writing program
- Storybird.com :online writing program
- Wikispace :creative witting
- www.starfall.com :reading

Family literacy DVD2

Read to your child even before they are able to read, write and talk

Give children a choice to choose their own books at the library

When going through your child’s class work book, if you find there are corrections that need to be made, ask your child why is that one incorrect and what was expected and explain why they got it wrong in a positive manner.

Always, always praise work well done

A constructive ethnographic study of children’s communicative practices in two homes in Cape Town

The case study was amongst the working and middle class.

In the working class it was found that living conditions limit children’s language practices.

Whereas in the middle class they have unlimited access to resources.

Digital story telling

The practice of taking still pictures and telling stories about them. I found it fascinating that I used it with my learners but we cut out pictures from the magazines, I gave them a topic ME, and sub-topics such as: my likes, dislikes, friends and pasted them on their diary books.

They still look at me for help!

Learners are lazy, or teachers should give sound topics so that learners will know easily how to do the research: some research topics

- Woman's day (August 9, 1956)
- Mining in South Africa
- District Six
- Acid rain and its effect in South Africa

School libraries on the move – against all odds

Libraries closed and turned into classrooms, funds should be allocated to assist in having libraries in all schools: equal education for all.

Permission to read in groups: Reading Clubs in grade 8

Learning occur with support from others.

Dual medium (variety of mother tongue).

Change mind set to question more and learn from each other.

- Ongoing modeling
- Probing questions

- Encourage discussion

Interesting books for learners to read

- Hatchet
- Dirty long legs
- Four weddings and a funeral

Nondi Vokwana