Sithanda ukufunda
Mobile library to schools
We love to read

Sithanda ukufunda – We love to read aims to enhance literacy levels in schools on the Lower South Coast of KZN and adjoining areas of the Eastern Cape. We want to help learners to read and to love reading by providing picture books and story books to children in less-advantaged, mostly rural schools. The project, which functions as a small mobile library is now in its third year of operation and has grown significantly.

Our books are sorted by grade with all board-books allocated to Grade R, early readers to Grades 1, 2 and 3 and so on, with novels and longer reading books to Grade 7 and high school learners. All the books are covered in library quality plastic and are taken to the schools in boxes for the different grades. Boxes of books are left at schools for a whole term in order to assist as many learners as possible to be able to read them. We have approximately 5 000 books packed into over 100 boxes and enable about 6 000 learners a term to handle a book, to enjoy the thrill of looking at colourful pictures and to improve their reading.

Our most recent initiative is to read to a few classes at some of the schools. We hope to be able to expand this input.

Comments from some of teachers include:

- They were so excited they even wanted to read all the time.
- They (the learners) were happy and the teachers were excited to have the box in the classroom.
- They dive into the box like into a Christmas cake!!
- The books are so lovely. They help us so much. Some of the easy Gr 4 books we use in Gr 3.
- They read the books and did summaries. They also read with the teacher – they needed lots of support and help with pronunciation.
- The books help us so much. Now they can read better.

We are at present looking to acquire a truck/van to help us over the very poor roads we encounter as we take books to the schools.

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