GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING CAMPAIGN

Laying solid foundations

I, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Education, hereby publish the contents of the Foundations for Learning Campaign that I am launching to improve learner performance in reading, writing and numeracy in all South African schools.

The Campaign provides clear directives to the entire education system on minimum expectations at each level of the General Phase of schooling. It sends out a Call to Action to all South Africans to join hands with the Department of Education to improve learning outcomes in these crucial areas.

Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, MP Minister of Education Date:

FOUNDATIONS FOR LEARNING CAMPAIGN: 2008 - 2011

Introduction

- 1. The *Foundations for Learning Campaign* is a four-year campaign to create a national focus to improve the reading, writing and numeracy abilities of all South African children.
- It seeks to provide energy as well as direction and inspiration across all levels of the education system as well as in homes and the public domain to ensure that by 2011 all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of Literacy and Numeracy.
- 3. The campaign is a national response to national, regional and international studies that have shown over a number of years that South African children are not able to read, write and count at expected levels, and are unable to execute tasks that demonstrate key skills associated with Literacy and Numeracy.
- 4. The campaign will provide teachers and schools with clear directives on the Department of Education's expectations of schools and teachers to achieve the expected levels of performance.
- 5. The campaign will also ensure that support is provided towards the achievement of the campaign's objectives.
- 6. The initial focus will be on primary schooling starting with the Foundation and Intermediate Phases – with the intention to ensure that ultimately learners and students across the system acquire and sustain a solid foundation for learning.
- All primary schools will be expected to increase average learner performance in Literacy/Language and Numeracy/Mathematics to no less than 50% – indicating an improvement of between 15%-20% – in the 4 years of the campaign.
- 8. The Foundations for Learning Campaign will culminate with a national evaluation at the end of 2011 to assess the Literacy (Languages) and Numeracy (Mathematics) levels of grade 3 and 6 learners in South Africa in order to determine the impact of the campaign. For the duration of the campaign South Africa will not participate in

any regional or international studies assessing learner competency levels in Literacy and Numeracy in the GET Band.

- 9. The campaign will be managed by a National Steering Committee comprising key educationalists from universities, research institutions and NGOs with expertise and experience in these two critical areas, working with senior education officials from the national and provincial departments of education.
- 10. Provincial level steering committees will similarly be established to oversee, monitor and report on the implementation of the campaign.

Quality Teaching and Learning in the General Education and Training Band

Minimum Expectations

- The *teaching* of Literacy and Numeracy (Languages and Mathematics) will be improved by ensuring that all teachers in Grades 1 – 3 actually teach reading and numeracy skills every day. We also expect that:
 - Every teacher in the Foundation and in the Intermediate Phase will spend at least 30 minutes daily on reading for enjoyment and at least 1hour on extended writing every week; and
 - Every teacher in the Foundation and Intermediate Phase will also teach Numeracy (Mathematics) for at least 1 hour every day. This will include 10 minutes of stimulating mental mathematics (arithmetic) exercises at the appropriate level in all grades.
- Every teacher must have sufficient *resources* to ensure the effective teaching and learning of Literacy and Numeracy. This should include wall charts, number and phonic friezes, writing materials, suitable apparatus for teaching concepts, textbooks, reading series, workbooks and writing materials.
- 3. Every school must *assess*, *track* and *record* learner progress and achievement in the key areas of reading, writing and numeracy. This must be done monthly for class records, and quarterly for submission to the District Office. Districts will report on these to head office.
- 4. Learner progress in Literacy and Numeracy (Languages and Mathematics) will be reflected in the *individual records of each learner from Grade R to 6*.

5. All primary school learners will undergo *annual national assessments* in Literacy and Numeracy (Languages and Mathematics), using standardized tests, to measure progress towards achievement of set targets.

Teaching and learning time

- 1. In terms of *Section 4 of the Employment of Educators Act, (1998),* the formal school day for teachers is seven hours, plus an additional one and a half hours for preparation and marking time per day.
- 2. The minimum contact teaching time for the Foundation Phase is set out in the following table:

Phase	Grade	Time	
Foundation Phase	R, 1 and 2	22 hrs	30mins
	3	25 hrs	
Intermediate Phase	4, 5 and 6	26 hrs	30mins

3. The formal teaching allocations for Literacy (Languages) and Numeracy (Mathematics) in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases are presented below as actual hours per grade.

Learning	Grade	Time Allocation	Total per week
Programme		per day	
Literacy	R, 1 and 2	1 hour 50 minutes	9 hours 10 minutes
	3	2 hours	10 hours
Numeracy	R, 1 and 2	1 hour 30 minutes	7 hours 30 minutes
	3	1hour 45 minutes	8 hours 45 minutes
Languages	4, 5 and 6	1 hour 30 minutes	7 hours 30 minutes
Mathematics	4, 5 and 6	1 hour	5 hours

DAILY TEACHER ACTIVITIES DURING LITERACY TIME GRADES 1-3

1.	Oral work at the beginning of each day	10 m	inutes	
	• Mark the register and as learner's name is called they say how they	у		
	are feeling etc.			
	• 2-4 learners tell their news (personal experiences)			
	• Day Chart, Month Chart, Birthday Chart and Weather Chart.			
Rea	ding and Writing Focus Time	Minutes		
		Gr	Gr	Gr
		1	2	3
2.	Shared reading or shared writing	15	15	15
	• Sing a song / say a poem/ or refer to a vocabulary chart if appropriate			
	• Introduce the text and new vocabulary. Draw out learners' prior			
	knowledge			
	• Read the text, modeling a reading strategy, e.g. predicting, using			
	illustrations, noticing punctuation, reading different types of text etc.			
	• Read the text with the learners joining in, using shared reading			
	techniques. Or write a short text using shared writing techniques.			
	• Check understanding and encourage learners to respond to the text			
	through focused questions.			
3.	Word and sentence level work: Do one of the following:	15	15	15
	Phonics/spelling:			
	• Say a rhyme (phonemic awareness): learners listen for target sound.			
	Teach the new letter-sound or word family in context (shared text).			
	Reinforce with a directed oral activity, e.g. a game, a sorting or			
	matching activity etc.			
	Sight words:			
	• Show the word in context (shared text) and out of context (flashcard,			
	board). Reinforce spelling, meaning and use, e.g. 'writing' it in the			
	air, using it etc.			
	Vocabulary:			
	• Find the target words in shared text. Revise the meanings. Reinforce,			
	e.g. learners make their own oral sentences with the words, make up			
	riddles etc.			
	Language:			

	• Show language item in context (shared text). Reinforce with a			
	directed oral activity, e.g. making own sentences, substitution table			
	etc.			
4.	Group, guided and independent reading/writing	30	30	30
	Learners work individually, in pairs or in groups to:			
	• Complete a written activity based on the class work, e.g. drawing a			
	picture and writing a caption about the story, completing a simple			
	comprehension, writing daily news, sentence completion, copying			
	words into personal dictionaries, matching words, filling in words etc.			
	or			
	• Read graded readers or small versions of the shared text and complete a worksheet.			
	Guided reading			
	• While this is happening, groups of same-ability learners do Guided			
	Reading with the teacher. They read a text at their developmental			
	level (this can be the shared text or another text). The teacher uses the			
	opportunity to:			
	1. revise reading skills and strategies already taught (sight			
	words, sounding out, predication, etc.)			
	2. listen for fluency			
	3. check reading for meaning by asking a question.			
5.	Handwriting	10	10	15
	• Copying writing patterns, letter formation, words and sentences.	X5	X2	X2
6.	Writing	10	20	20
	• Learners are given a writing frame using a shared text as a model and	X5	X3	X3
	do own writing, e.g. a list, message, recipe, story.			
7.	Listening and speaking	10	10	10
	• Read aloud a story to the class	X5	X2	X2
	• Have learners work with the story: respond to the story/re-tell the			
	story/ dramatise the story/ discuss the story/ write the new vocabulary			
	into their personal dictionaries etc.			
8.	First Additional Language	10	20	30
	• If learners are to use this language as the LOLT further on, use the	X5	X5	X5
	same methodologies (shared reading, word and sentence level work			

		etc) to introduce the new language and, after the first 6 months of Grade 1, literacy in the new language.			
9.	Readin	Reading for enjoyment		inutes	
	•	Everyone, including the teacher, reads a book of their choice (reading for enjoyment).	daily		

For the walls	For each learner	Resources for the teacher
Alphabet frieze	A Workbook or Learners' book	Big Books
Alphabet chart (letter, word,	(to provide systematic	Graded readers
picture)	development of literacy, phonic	A list of reading words per
Birthday chart	and language skills)	reader
Weather chart		
	Set of small alphabet cards	Read-aloud stories (for teacher)
Numbers word chart	(for word building)	Independent reading books
Colour word chart	Sight words on sheets/cards	(different topics, different levels)
	(to cut up and keep in a box –	
Vocabulary charts (words and	e.g. 25 words per term)	A systematic programme which
pictures) e.g.		includes:
• My Body Chart	Un-lined Jotter	Phonemic awareness
My Family Chart	Lined Handwriting book	• Phonic development
Fruit Chart	Lined Phonics book	• Sight words
• Farm animals	Lined Spelling book	Language development
Actions	Lined Language/Writing book	C C C I I I I
	Personal Dictionary (lined	(If one or other of these elements
Learners' names on flashcards	exercise book with letters of the	is missing, a supplementary
Sight words on flashcards	alphabet on different pages)	programme will be needed). The
Signe words on musical as		programme(s) should include a
	Wax crayons	workbook or learners' book for
	Pencils	each learner – see below
	Sharpener	
	Soft eraser	
	Blank paper for drawing	

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR LITERACY IN GRADES 1-3

Additional resources

Sets of plastic alphabet letters

Sets of cards:

- Alphabet cards
- Alphabet and picture cards for matching
- Alphabet and word cards for matching
- CVC word cards for sounding out
- Blends and picture cards for matching (2 packs)
- Vowel combinations cards (Sorting, matching)
- Sight words sets (Sorting, matching)

Cork board for learners' work

Library box or boxes to store books

Flipchart stand and paper and kokis

DAILY TEACHER ACTIVITIES DURING LANGUAGES TIME GRADES 4-6

Literacy Focus Time (60 min)

3 X per week in LOLT/HL

2 X per week in FAL/HL

Language development (30 min)

Learners do Writing and Listening and Speaking in the LOLT each once a week and in the FAL each once a week. The SAL can be introduced in the fifth weekly time-slot.

1.	Weekly	whole school assembly	10
	•	Learners from one class do a Literacy presentation for the school: read part	minutes
		of an interesting book/ give a brief review of a book/read part of a text they	
		have written/recite a poem etc.	

Literacy Focus Time

2.	Shared reading or shared writing	15
	• Introduce the text and new vocabulary. Draw out learners' prior knowledge	minutes
	• Read the text, modeling a reading strategy, e.g. predicting, noticing story	
	structure, reading different types of text, reading diagrams and graphs etc.	
	• Read the text with the learners joining in, using shared reading techniques.	
	Or write a short text using shared writing techniques.	
	• Check understanding and encourage learners to respond to the text through	
	focused oral questions.	
3.	Word and sentence level work: Do one of the following:	15
	Spelling:	minutes
	• Teach the new spelling pattern in context (shared text). Provide more	
	examples. Reinforce with a directed activity, e.g. making sentences with the	
	words, finding similarities between words.	
	Sight words:	
	• Show the word in context (shared text) and out of context (flashcard, board).	
	Reinforce spelling, meaning and use e.g. 'writing' it in the air, using it etc.	
	Vocabulary:	
	• Find the target words in shared text. Revise the meanings. Reinforce, e.g.	
	learners make their own oral sentences with the words, make up riddles etc.	
	Language:	
	• Show language item in context (shared text). Reinforce with a directed oral	

	activity e.g. making own sentences, substitution table etc.	
4.	Group, guided and independent reading/writing	30
	Learners work individually, in pairs or in groups to:	minutes
	• Complete a written activity based on the class work, e.g. complete a written	
	comprehension based on the shared text, write in their journals, sentence	
	completion, copying spelling words and vocabulary into their personal	
	dictionaries, using the words in sentences etc.	
	or	
	• Read graded readers and complete a worksheet.	
	Guided reading	
	• While this is happening, groups of same-ability learners do Guided	
	Reading with the teacher. They read a text at their developmental level (this	
	can be the shared text or another text). The teacher uses the opportunity to:	
	- revise reading skills and strategies already taught (sight words,	
	predication, etc.)	
	- listen for fluency	
	- check reading for meaning by asking a question.	
Lan	guage Development	1
5.	Writing (Three times a week – once in FAL and twice in LoLT)	30
	• Writing: Learners are given a writing frame, and using a shared text as a	minutes
	model, do their own writing, e.g. a greeting card, set of instructions, letter,	X3
	informational paragraph, story etc. One piece of writing is brainstormed,	
	drafted, revised, edited and 'published over the course of two weeks.	
6.	Listening and speaking (Two times a week – once in FAI and once in LoLT)	30
	• Teach 3-7 vocabulary words based on a story.	minutes
	• Read aloud the story to the class	X2
	• Have learners work with the story: respond to the story/ re-tell the story in	
	groups/ dramatise the story in groups/ critically discuss the story/ write the	
	new vocabulary into their personal dictionaries/ debate issues in the story	
	etc.	
1		1

7.	Readin	ng for enjoyment	30
	•	Everyone, including the teacher, reads a book of their choice and records the	minutes
		title on a reading record card.	daily
	•	In the last 10 minutes, learners share their responses to their books with	
		others in pairs, groups or the whole class.	

For the walls	For each learner	Resources for the teacher
Word wall	Personal dictionary	Vocabulary flashcards as needed
Sight-word chart/list per year	Language textbook and	Grade-level shared texts of
	Languages exercise book	different types (as per NCS) informational texts, short stories.
Writing charts/writing frames	Work cards per Reading book	poems etc) in the form of Big
showing different genre (e.g. dialogues, research report,		Books, textbooks or readers
recipe, book review, letter, instructions, etc)	Bookmarks/reading record cards	Reading vocabulary list for the year
Reading Motivation posters		Spelling list for the year
Reading Wouvation posters		Graded Grade level readers or
		other texts
		Read-aloud texts e.g. short
		novels, newspaper articles etc.
		Collection of 'library' books,
		including different level fiction
		and non-fiction books,
		dictionaries.
		Published dictionary
Additional resources		
Teacher's Reference Books		
Educational Magazines		
Children's encyclopedias		

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR LANGUAGES IN GRADES 4-6

		Minute	es	
		Gr1	Gr2	Gr3
1.	Count with the whole class according to their level	5	5	10
	• count using a number square			
	• count on the number line			
	• count forwards and backwards			
	• count forwards and backwards from a given number to a given			
	number			
	• count in multiples			
	• odd and even numbers etc.			
2.	Oral mental maths and number sense problems	10	10	10
	• flash cards with + and - combinations			
	• games such as 'I have' 'Who has'?			
	• simple oral word problems			
	• doubling and halving etc.			
3.	Giving instructions and hand out books	5	5	5
4.	Work with group according to their level	25x2	25x2	30x2
	• Concept development (10 minutes –Grades1-3)			
	- data handling			
	- estimation (measurement)			
	- sequencing			
	- 2D and 3D			
	- adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, etc.			
	• Problem Solving and investigation (15 minutes for Grades			
	1-2) (20 minutes for Grade 3)			
	- Pose problem based on concepts being developed			
	- Allow learners to find own solution to problem			
	- Feedback from learners as to how they solved the problem			
	- Discussion on different methods, answers, thinking etc.			
	- Group is given work to do at their desks			
5.	Supervision of learners doing independent tasks	10 x2	10x2	10x2

DAILY TEACHER ACTIVITIES DURING NUMERACY TIME GRADES 1-3

NB: Work with 2 groups every day. While you are working with the groups, the other groups are working independently at their desks. The work they do must be consolidation of concepts already learnt. This independent work needs to be varied.

For the walls	For the learners	Apparatus			
Number line	Individual number squares	2-D shapes, e.g. pattern blocks			
Number frieze with:	counters	tangrams; cardboard cut-outs			
Cardinal value cards	Spinners	3-D objects, eg blocks,			
Matching pictures	Number dice	collection of different shaped			
Dots arrays	Place value or flash cards	boxes			
Number names	Individual small abacus	Collection of containers of			
	Small White boards and pens or	different shapes and sizes			
Colour chart	small chalk-boards and chalk	Tape measures			
Birthday chart		Bathroom scale			
Weather chart		Plastic Balance scale			
Height chart		Teacher's abacus			
Calendar		Dice			
Large Number square		Coloured sticks of different			
Working clock		lengths or sticks for			
24 - hour desk clock		measurement bundling into			
		HTUs			
		Coloured beads and threads			
		Geoboards/pegboards			
		Grid paper			
		Plastic measuring containers for			
		capacity			
Additional resources:					
Playing cards					
Dominoes					
Board games					
Lego or other construction apparatus					
Container to keep apparatus in					
Pin-up board					
Posters					

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR NUMERACY IN GRADES 1-3

DAILY TEACHER ACTIVITIES DURING MATHEMATICS TIME GRADES 4-6

		Minutes		
1.	Oral and Mental Work: Use this time to develop learners' mental skills where they			
	practise using their number facts. This can be either mental or quick written practice.	minutes		
	Examples could cover counting forwards and backwards in different multiples,			
	completing number bonds (e.g. $600 + ? = 2\ 000$) and practise their multiplication and			
	division facts (tables) e.g. Ask questions like "How many groups of 8 in 72?" "What			
	multiplied by 5 makes 60?" The focus of the questions should be both on revising			
	skills learned in previous lessons and on supporting the introduction of the lesson of			
	the day.			
2.	Review and correct homework from previous day.	10		
		minutes		
3.	Teacher introduces the concept of the day's lesson on the board.	20		
	E.g. Addition of 3 and 4-digit numbers. Learners first listen and learn from the	minutes		
	teacher's example. Learners then practise doing similar examples from their textbooks			
	or in worksheets prepared by the teacher. Time is allocated to go over the examples			
	together, to clear up any confusion some learners may have. More able learners can be			
	given further examples to do while waiting for the teacher who is dealing with learners			
	who need help.			
4.	Problem solving: Interactive group or pair work should follow where learners engage	15		
	with a problem or challenging investigation where they have to apply what they've	minutes		
	learned in the earlier part of the lesson. Opportunities for learners to try out different			
	ways to solve the problem should be encouraged, e.g. rounding off or adding on to			
	subtract as two possible strategies for adding 3-and 4-digit numbers. The teacher			
	should once again leave time for a short whole class or group review where different			
	learners share and explain their thinking, methods and answers. Sufficient attention			
	shall be given to questions requiring higher order thinking and the solving of word			
	problems in particular.			
5.	Homework tasks are given out and explained by the teacher. These may include doing	5 minutes		
	corrections from the previous day as well as practising what they've done in the day's			
	lesson. Examples should include, where possible, problems that learners must solve			
	with real life contexts.			

For the Walls	Stationery	Printed Stationery
Charts/ illustrating the	A4 paper	Large paper money for
following concepts with	A3 paper	demonstration by the teacher
examples:	Scissors	Squared paper – squares of
	Glue	different sizes printed on A4 for
Multiplication Tables	Pins	the children and A3 for the
Addition/ Subtraction/ Division/	String	teacher
Multiplication	Rubber bands	Squared paper (large) for the
Fractions	Coloured pens	teacher for demonstration
Measurement:	Crayons	A large calendar for the teacher
• Capacity/ Volume (l;	Cello tape	to demonstrate
ml)	Coloured paper	Dotty paper - squared and
• Mass (g; kg)	Rulers	triangular, large and small
• Length (cm; km)	Prestick	Copies of different geometric
• Distance (km)		nets
• Time (minutes; hours;		
days; week; months;		
years)		
Geometric Shapes		
Angles		
Area and Perimeter		
Number line		
Graphs		
Shapes		
1		

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR MATHEMATICS IN GRADES 4-6

Hard Apparatus

3 D and 2D shapes of different sizes for investigations and for using as templates to draw around

Metre rule

Tape measure

Large dice

Wooden or plastic cubes for building blocks

Measuring jugs, spoons and cups

Kitchen scale

Containers for capacity

Trundle wheel

Thermometers

Large compass

Large protractor

Large clock of demonstration

Large digital clock for demonstration

MONITORING AND SUPPORT

Monitoring and support will be conducted at two levels, namely, by the Department of Education and the nine provincial departments of education jointly; and the education districts:

- The Department of Education and the nine provincial departments of education will monitor the overall implementation of the campaign activities and outcomes jointly.
- District support is critical to the success of the campaign and district officials will:
 - always be available to assist principals and teachers as well as be accessible to parents;
 - visit all schools within the District at least once per term, with more frequent visits to schools that require stronger support, for monitoring and guidance;
 - ensure that all schools procure and receive the necessary resources in time for teaching to commence, in line with national norms and standards determined for these; and
 - assist all schools to improve their performance by working towards agreed targets, ensuring that regular tests are conducted, and that the results are reported to parents. A framework for quarterly tests will be provided to all schools for all grades.

ADVOCACY

To provide national energy and visibility to increase learner performance:

- The primary focus will be to highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy as a basis for achieving quality education for all;
- A National Communication Strategy will be directed to all South Africans, emphasizing the role that all can play to support young South Africans in these critical areas;

- Support materials will be developed and provided to assist parents/guardians with home-based assessment and support for their children's learning;
- Enhanced support will be provided to Grade R teachers, parents and caregivers to stimulate emergent literacy and numeracy in preschool children; and
- The campaign should create awareness that it takes a village to raise a child and therefore all South Africans, whoever they are and wherever they are, have a role to play in providing quality education for every South African child.