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These Big Books form part of the Department of Basic Education's strategy to boost SouthAfrican children's school performance.

They are developed to supplement the Rainbow workbooks and posters provided to schools with the aim of helping children to develop the pre-literacy skills and the fantasy that goes along with reading.

The Grade 1 SAL CAPS requires that Grade 1 learners are given the opportunity to develop their pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-mathematical skills, and outlines the skills they will need to get a solid educational foundation so that they find it easier to learn in Grade 1 and beyond.

Before children formally learn to read they need to learn how to hold a book and turn its pages, and to understand how books work. They need to understand the relationship between the pictures in the book and the words on the page (or the stories told by the teacher). They need to understand that stories are made up of words, which are made up of sounds that have meaning. This big book will be useful for developing these pre-literacy skills.

While the big books were developed as "wordless books", except for the headings and teacher's notes which are in English, the books are developed for use across Grade 1 classrooms irrespective of language. The wordless stories rely on the imagination and the ability of teachers to create and tell stories that the children will enjoy.

Research shows that forevery year that children are exposed to stimulating activitiesbefore Grade 1, they perform better academically in later years — throughout their primary and secondary schooling. Reading and developing the love for reading is central to enhancing future learning.

This Rainbow big book, as part of the Grade 1 package of Rainbow posters and workbooks, aims to assist children in developing the skills and the key initial concepts they need to laya solid foundation for learning. The Rainbow Grade 1 resource kit is packed with opportunities for children to develop and practise the skills that will prepare them for formal schooling.



Grade SAL (Second Aditional Language)

A Big Book of little stories



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Published by the Department of Basic Education 222 Struben Street Pretoria South Africa

© Department of Basic Education First edition published in 2015

ISBN 978-1-4315-2124-1

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The Big Books in this series are available in English. They were developed by a team of UNISA Language and Education experts as part of their Community Engagement contribution to South Africa's education sector.



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