

Parents learn how to teach their children

RAPHAEL WOLF

Parents of pupils at two local primary schools were awarded certificates for completing a course which equips them to help their children with school work.

The presentations, for completing the Wordworks Supporting Young Children's Learning at Home Course, were held at Kannemeyer Primary School in Grassy Park and Pelican Park Primary in Pelican Park.

Eighteen parents graduated at Kannemeyer and eight at Pelican Park.

Kannemeyer Primary school teacher Christina Abrahams said they started the course with 26 parents and 18 graduated.

"We dealt with a home programme for parents to teach their children to read and how to tell stories with expression and action, and how children learn and play," she said.

Brigid Comrie of Wordworks said she had been with the programme for five years. She said research showed it was critical for parents to invest in their children's education at the foundation phase.

"A crucial thing is the language development. (We must) let children try to read and write because it stimulates their reading skills," she said.

Pelican Park Primary teachers Judith Vermeulen and Shanaaz



■ Kannemeyer Primary caretaker Abraham Hansen, centre, receiving a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated work at the school from principal Ridwan Samodien, left, teachers Christiana Adriaans, and Miranda Collop and Brigid Comrie of Wordworks.

Sulayman attended a two-day Wordworks facilitators' course at the Early Learning Centre in Wynberg, earlier this year, with teachers from other primary schools in the Cape Metropolitan area. They were taught how to facilitate the course at schools.

At Pelican Park Primary's certificate presentation, Wordworks' Lesley Palmer said the course targeted parents of Grade R and Grade 1 pupils.

"We try to make parents aware that they are the child's first teachers and that they have a role

to play in preparing their children for formal education.

"Research shows that early intervention makes a difference in terms of academic success in later years," Ms Palmer said.

Ms Sulayman said the course boosted the self-esteem of both parents and their children.

"It made them realise that home is the first place of education and that school is the continuation of education," she said.

Parents attended two-hour lessons once a week, for seven weeks.



■ At the joint certificate ceremony of the Wordworks educational organisation and Pelican Park Primary School, are seated from left, Wordworks representative Lesley Palmer, parent Shamiela Steers, principal Vasintha Moonsamy, parent Doreshni Naidoo and Gadija Dalwai. Back row, from left, are teacher and course facilitator Shanaaz Sulayman, parents Shameemah Samuels, Anthea Hill, Patricia David, Shamiela Joseph, Fazlin Khan and teacher Judith Vermeulen.

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