

EDUCATIONAL BLOCKS

Industries for this invention

- 1. Education
 - Schools
 - Remedial language centres
- 2. Humanities
 - Language learning
 - Language therapy

Innovation Status

TRL 5
Early prototype
demonstrated

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Invention

A set of language-based building blocks that focus on supporting the fundamentals of language learning in the Foundation Phase.

This open-ended resource consists of building blocks of various sizes that depict images, single letters and letter combinations, which can be adapted to different levels and learning contexts in a variety of ways. The product incorporates vocabulary building and phonemic development.

Application

The product is suitable for use by facilitators or teachers, in support of learning activities that are used to address language-based learning problems faced by Foundation Phase learners. The product encourages play-based learning where learners engage in creative, imaginative, manipulative and social play.

Problem Solved

Within the context of South Africa a multitude of problems arising from the dichotomy in the country's socioeconomic system, manifest in the education system. A significant number of Foundation Phase learners face a transition from their mother tongue to English, the language of learning and teaching, only when entering the Intermediate Phase. Some learners receive instruction in English starting in the Foundation Phase, despite having no previous exposure to the language. The product addresses predominant learning difficulties that are faced by learners in countries where English is not a first language.

Advantages

- Support learners in their learning and holistic development, i.e. physical (fine motor skills and coordination), social (through competitive and cooperative play), emotional and cognitive development
- Designed to be affordable, accessible, durable and contextually relevant
- Adaptability of product enhances the functionality and usability of the product and addresses fundamental needs of primary and secondary users

