ZEST
Zambian Education School-based Training

The Zambian Education School-based Training (ZEST) programme has enhanced the existing model for SBCPD in Zambia. In partnership with World Vision (Zambia), officials from the Ministry of Education and teachers and school leaders in over 400 Primary schools, The Open University (UK) has developed a set of resources to support active teaching and learning in Zambia and implement the revised School Curriculum.

SUPPORTING LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Learning to read and write in primary school is an essential foundation for a successful education. All teachers can support literacy, whatever subject they teach.

It is important to give your learners regular reading and writing practise so they can build their skills and confidence and improve their learning in all subjects and grades.

PRINT RICH ENVIRONMENTS

Imagine a learning environment where the walls are full of posters and pictures with words, and there's a 'reading corner' with books. This is a print-rich environment. Here is a photo of one such classroom. In a classroom which is a print-rich environment, pictures, posters, learners' written work and other written resources help children to develop their literacy skills by giving them things to read around them.

LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Literacy doesn't only take place in literacy or English lessons – all teachers can do it, whatever subject they are teaching. You could create different corners for each subject area. Having a display with, for example, mathematical language can really help your learners.
Supporting learners' reading and writing skills is everyone's responsibility.

READING AND TELLING STORIES

Using storybooks is a good way to involve all the learners in reading activities. You can do shared reading, where you read to the whole class, paired reading where learners read in pairs, or independent reading where they read individually. You can also involve learners in writing and telling stories to develop their language skills.

THE PRINT AROUND YOU

It is important to develop your learners' literacy skills in their home language. When children learn to read and write in their own language, they learn more quickly. Don't forget to make use of the printed materials that are around you on packaging and advertising to develop your own learning resources.

I'd really like to find some stories that are based in Africa to use with my Grade 4 class

Do you know about the African Storybook (www.africanstorybook.org) website? There are a lot of stories there at different levels in a range of African languages.

Scan here to access the Early Reading course where you will find ideas to help you develop your learners' literacy skills or visit: www.open.edu/ openlearncreate/ earlyreadingafrica

SCAN ME

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The Open University