



## REDEARTH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

### 'REDEARTH EDUCATION: the next chapter' Conference

*'kamu, kamu, nigwo muganda' Stick by stick we make a bundle*

**Redearth Education** is a well established charity registered in 2006 with a local Ugandan partner registered in Uganda in 2009 and based at the Redearth Centre in Masindi District. The local ngo was formed as a result of the work of Redearth Education (UK) and is now transitioning from being led by UK Directors to Ugandan leadership. The organisation remains very much working in partnership with the UK organisation with two boards working together. Staff have been well trained and together we have delivered many successful programs in government schools and early years centres in Uganda over the past 17 years, including the development of a model nursery school where good early years practice can be observed and emulated. We have a deep knowledge and understanding of the context, have strong relationships with local and national government and have a very good reputation for delivery of good quality programs.

Our programs have covered developing good practice in teaching and learning in nursery schools and in primary schools, radio programming, early grade reading and early grade mathematics and headteacher training on leadership amongst others. In these programs we provide central training and ongoing in school support to teachers. We make our training as practically based as possible in order for teachers to understand how they can implement this in their own classrooms and we also train them in making low cost/no cost materials. To support future sustainability we have developed a Lead Teacher model whereby the best teachers are trained to support their colleagues.

In addition to this we have provided training and support to other organisations such as RTI and EDC on their national reading programs and have worked alongside Kyambogo University to support the capacity building of tutors. Our latest project will see us supporting the capacity building of early years tutors in four Primary Training Colleges (PTC's)

Whilst our local programs cover all 98 schools with approximately 45,000 children and 900 teachers in Masindi District plus 40 nursery schools, our work has spread to many other districts through the training and support we provide.

We firmly believe in the vital importance of high quality training and high quality teaching and learning. We also believe that high quality early years experiences can set the foundation for children's future success.

## CONFERENCE

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 'Redearth Education; the next chapter'

### Purposes:

1. To celebrate the work of Redearth Education since its founding.
2. To provide workshops to share good practice with Masindi teachers and others.
3. To consider future development of Redearth Education Uganda
4. To look at how the good practice already established can be sustained.
5. To officially handover the organisation to Redearth Education (Uganda) so that it is publicly known.
6. To promote Redearth Education (Uganda)

### Who will be involved?

- A combination of Ugandan staff, UK volunteers and Ugandan lead Teachers will run workshops and demonstrations on specific areas of expertise. The focus of these will be on teaching and learning but will have the essential element of sustainability and next steps embedded.
- Redearth and nursery teachers and children. These will demonstrate good early years practice and learning.

### Who will attend?

#### Invited Guests:

- Teachers & Headteachers x 300 (approximately 3 from each government school)
- Early years practitioners
- Local district officials
- Ministry representatives
- Community representatives
- Media
- REU board members
- REUK board member representatives
- Representatives from our main funders
- Partners

- Other invited guests

The conference will run over two days and consist of:

- Keynote and other speakers
- Opening and closing ceremonies
- Workshops
- Official handover ceremony
- Learning aids display
- Videos displaying good practice
- Demonstration lessons
- Commissioning of the Redearth Education Institute
- Launch of the Redearth Education Ltd. (Uganda) strategic plan

*'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'* Eleanor Roosevelt

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** UNVEILING EXCELLENCE: ENHANCING TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Lynne Pritchard

The workshop is mainly focused on school leaders and others who are responsible for the development of teachers.

This workshop will explore the different kinds of professional development opportunities which headteachers and others can create and promote to improve teaching and learning in their schools. The purpose is to ensure staff are continually learning new skills and improving the outcomes for their pupils.

In the workshop you will explore:

- What the participants feel is working now and how this could be extended into the future.
- The challenges which must be faced
- The current Redearth CPD programs and how these could be further developed to meet needs.

Workshop Facilitator

Lynne Pritchard Founder and Ex- Director of Redearth Education. Currently a trustee of the UK board.

Lynne has worked in education for 50 years, as a teacher, as a headteacher in the UK and as an educational consultant. She has written and developed many education programs and materials and provided consultancy and support to a variety of other organisations.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP: Next Steps in Using Phonics: Building on the Foundations**

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Chris Barungi

The workshop is aimed at teachers across all levels, both Nursery and Primary school

Teachers know the basics of phonics: connecting sounds with letters. But what about the tricky parts that can confuse young readers and even us teachers? This workshop dives into advanced phonics, helping educators handle tough sound-to-letter combinations. Participants will learn strategies to help guide children to reading success.

In this workshop, you will:

- Explore additional phonemes in English, including a variety of vowel sounds.
- Engage in activities to use when teaching phonics.
- Take the next steps in learning how to apply advanced phonics in classrooms for the teaching of reading in English.
- Engage in activities which will help you to support learners in developing their reading of more complex words.
- Discuss how Redearth can support you to develop reading skills of your pupils.

Workshop Facilitator **Chris Barungi** ECCE Manager Redearth Education Chris has 20 years of experience in Education, **10** years at Redearth Education leading projects and delivering training and support to national and local organisations in educational pedagogy, early grade reading and early years.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP: Write, Wipe, Wow! Using Mini Slates for Learning in Large Classes**

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Alex Onyang

This workshop is designed for teachers at any level and will focus on using mini slates to enhance pupil engagement, particularly in large classes.

Participants will discover how mini slates can be an effective strategy for promoting student engagement. When children are engaged, their concentration levels increase, leading to improved behaviour management and increased learning time. You will learn how a simple handheld slate can make a significant difference in your classroom."

In this workshop, you will explore:

- The importance of using slates to increase learner engagement.
- Simple tips to organise the storage and use of slates.

- How to use slates for group activities so that all learners are accountable, and the teacher can identify the next steps for learners.
- Consider additional ideas for what additional help may be needed in teaching large classes in the future.

Workshop facilitator **Alex Onyang**, Project Leader Redearth Education. Alex has worked to improve the learning outcomes of children in Ugandan schools and Rwanda. He spent 5 years supporting and mentoring teachers in UNICEF supported schools in Rwanda. While at Redearth, he has worked alongside teachers to implement early grade reading programs and managing large classes.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP: Classroom Connections: Cultivating Positivity in Your Classroom**

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER: Martin Luther Muwereza & Mildred Ngonzebwa**

The workshop is aimed at classroom teachers in both early years and primary education.

In this interactive workshop participants will learn practical strategies for creating a positive classroom ethos. Through engaging activities and discussions, you'll have the chance to apply and strengthen your understanding of how students can be motivated to make good behaviour choices and enjoy coming to school. This workshop provides valuable insights to create a positive learning environment for all.

In this workshop, you will:

- Discover key ideas for facilitating a positive culture in your classroom.
- Understand the benefits of using positive language use and encouragement with learners.
- Reflect on your personal understanding of class ethos and how you can extend your current practice to support your learners with good behaviour choices.
- Create a trophy that you will take back to your school.
- Consider if there are ways in which you would like further support from Redearth Education in the future.

Workshop Facilitator: **Martin Luther Muwereza & Mildred Ngonzebwa.**

Martin is currently a Project Leader at Redearth Education. He has worked in Rwanda supporting and mentoring teacher's pedagogical skills and supporting a literacy program. He has worked with Redearth for 5 years supporting teachers in early grade reading and has written and developed audio CPDs as a post COVID intervention.

Mildred Ngonzebwa – Deputy Headteacher Rwijeere and Lead teacher

Mildred has been trained and supported by Redearth Education to develop into a successful teacher, implementing good practices of teaching and learning. She has supported teachers in her own school and other schools offering training in different interactive teaching and learning strategies.

## **Playful Math: Strategies for Integrating Play into Math Learning!**

The workshop is focused on teachers in early childhood development centres.

This will be a hands-on workshop based upon play-based math learning! Participants will learn how fun activities can boost pupil understanding and interest in math whilst consolidating key concepts. Games and learning activities will be explored that make math enjoyable and easier to grasp. This workshop will share practical tips to help you make math more exciting in your classroom.

In the workshop, you will explore:

- The benefits of learning through play.
- How math concepts can be consolidated through simple play activities.
- How math play activities can be organised so that learners have opportunities to extend their skills and understanding, building confidence for future math learning.
- Consider your ideas for how support might be able to support mathematical learning in the future.

Workshop Facilitator: **Violet Ahuura & Sheena Gilbay**

Violet has gained 8 years of experience in Education both as a science teacher and Field officer at Redearth Education. She has been involved in different programs such as early years, reading, and developing good practices of teaching and learning. She has supported ECD teachers in promoting learning through play and the child centred approach. She successfully implemented a community ECCE project, providing parenting sessions to community members and working alongside the community education facilitators to offer play-based sessions to children while at home due to COVID closures.

Sheena Gilby. Sheena is a highly experienced early years Headteacher running an Early years Centre in the UK. She has been in education for xxx years and has undertaken voluntary work for Redearth Education. She was honoured with for a fellowship from Goldsmiths University for her work in the UK.

**Workshop facilitator:**

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS: THE POWER OF NUMBER BONDS

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Ocen Alfred

This workshop will be focused upon the basic mathematical concept of number bonds and methods of teaching these.

You will learn the importance of number bonds as a foundational skill in early mathematical understanding and take away activities which you can use in your classroom.

In the workshop you will explore:

- The meaning of number bonds
- Why number bonds are of fundamental importance.

- Activities to enhance the teaching of number bonds.
- What you will do as your next steps in teaching number bonds to your pupils.

Workshop facilitator **Alfred Ocen**. Alfred has 10 years of experience as a science teacher and 5 years' experience working with Redearth Education training local teachers on strategies for Early Grade reading and Early Grade Mathematics where he holds the position of Project Leader. He has unique skills in developing resources for teaching mathematics which is bringing life to the teaching of mathematics in schools.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** BRINGING PLACE VALUE TO LIFE: ENGAGING CLASSROOM PRACTICES

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Caroline Holland & James Nyogoli

Place value has never been an easy concept for children to master, this workshop will provide you with a deeper understanding of its importance in children's mathematical development as well as give you hands on experience of using some materials to support this in your classroom.

In the workshop you will explore:

- How understanding place value is vitally important in all numeracy activities
- How you can integrate some of the activities into your teaching without compromising the curriculum
- Some materials which you can make for using with your pupils.
- What might support you in further developing your knowledge and understanding of this concept?

Workshop facilitator: **Caroline Holland**. Volunteer Redearth Education

Educational consultant, specialist in Mathematics and Involved in education for 30 years. Caroline has engaged in youth work as well as teaching in primary and secondary sectors. She has worked in other African educational contexts delivering training and support. She has been a focal person in developing the Redearth training program in early grade numeracy.

**James Nyogoli** is currently a Field Officer supporting the Early Grade Mathematics program. He has particular skills in making learning aids from low cost no cost materials. He has also supported the early grade reading program.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** READING COMPREHENSION: THE GATEWAY TO LIFELONG LEARNING

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Ronnie Katzler

Many educators in Uganda have now become familiar with the fundamentals skill of decoding text through using phonics. Whilst many children are learning to decode words and sentences, there is a significant gap in comprehension of what is read. As comprehension can be the only real purpose of learning to read, the workshop will focus on the next step encompassing how to build reading comprehension skills amongst pupils.

In the workshop you will explore:

- Key activities in supporting reading comprehension.
- Challenges
- What teachers need to do next and what might help them in developing children's comprehension?
- A range of supportive materials

Workshop facilitator: **Ronnie Katzler** Ronnie has worked as an Advisory Teacher of the Deaf, providing training and support to teachers in the UK in integrating deaf children into their classes as well as undertaking educational in various African countries. He has been in education for 35 years and is a founder member of Redearth Education, living in Uganda for 10 years prior to his return to the UK and supporting the development of the organisation.

## **BEYOND THE TEST: HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT IN RURAL SCHOOLS**

Assessment in large classes is not easy, but if a teacher doesn't know what their children do or do not know or can and cannot do. There is likely to be a huge loss of learning time. This is because many children may already know what the teacher is teaching or many children may be struggling as the level of teaching is too high for their level of knowledge and understanding. This workshop will provide participants with some basic and simple strategies to assess their learners.

In the workshop you will explore:

- Current practice in your schools
- Ideas for how you can improve your methods of assessment
- How to use some of the tools
- How assessment methods can be better embedded in your practice in the future and what support is needed.

Workshop facilitator: **Kelly Hughes** Teaching, Learning & Organisational Consultant for Redearth Education.

Kelly has been in education for 20 years as a teacher and teacher trainer. She came to Uganda as a long-term volunteer for Redearth Education and decided to remain. She now works as a Teaching, Learning & Organisational Consultant for the organisation focusing on different projects and supporting capacity building of the Redearth Team.



**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** MIND MAPPING MASTERY: HARNESSING VISUAL THINKING FOR RURAL EDUCATORS

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Katwesige Janet Wamara

To ensure high level learning is achieved, we need to understand how different ideas are linked together, This workshop will help teachers to know how to use mind maps for developing understanding of connections between different concepts through visual representation. It will also focus on using mind mapping as a useful tool for revision purposes.

In the workshop you will explore:

- The concept of mind mapping
- Different ways to use mind maps to enhance pupil learning.
- Examples of mind maps
- You will also develop your own mind map for sharing with others.

Workshop facilitator: **Katwesige Janet Wamara** Training & Quality Assurance Manager for Redearth Education has gained 21 years' experience of working in the education sector as a teacher and project manager. She has trained and grown her experience with Redearth Education through training, mentoring and coaching educators in good practices of teaching and learning and early grade reading. She has offered consultancies to different partner organisations.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP:** EMPOWERING LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND OWNERSHIP

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Muhangi Robert

It is recognised that local leadership engagement and ownership of programs enhance the likelihood of future success and impact on outcomes. Without this, programs are likely to be unsustainable and therefore ineffective. The workshop will provide opportunities for discussing these issues in relation to the Redearth programs and how these can be taken into the future through such partnerships.

In the workshop you will explore:

- The importance of building capacity among local stakeholders to sustain and lead educational initiatives in rural communities.
- Strategies for empowering local teachers, administrators, and community members to take ownership of educational programs.
- Discussion ways to foster leadership skills, promote community engagement, and create sustainable networks of support into the future.

Workshop facilitator: **Muhangi Robert**. Executive Director Redearth Education Ltd. Uganda. Robert has wide experience in organisational management, working as a senior management for different local national and regional organisations building structures. He is now in the role of fully transitioning the transfer of leadership of Redearth Education to the

local ngo and to take the organisation into a future which is hoped will have wide impact on positive outcomes for children.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP: FROM VISION TO ACTION: BUILDING STRONGER SCHOOLS WITH SUPPORTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Phinehas Kyatosobora

Teachers often feel unsupported in schools and feel their hard work goes unnoticed. This workshop is designed to help school management committees to support their schools through recognition of the work that teachers do, providing them with the motivation to continue to improve and to further enhance the outcomes for their pupils.

In the workshop you will explore:

- Why SMCs are important in supporting their school to improve pupil outcomes.
- How SMCs in low resource contexts can develop simple ways to reward their staff through recognition of their successes.
- Ways in which Redearth or others may be able to support how these ideas can be shared and taken forward.

Workshop facilitator **Kyatosobora Phinehas**. Program manager Redearth Education, Phinehas has worked with several national and international organisations in different community development related programs including education. He has vast knowledge in collaborating with different stake holders at all levels doing work in education for better learning outcomes.

**TITLE OF WORKSHOP: PAGES OF POSSIBILITY: FOSTERING CREATIVITY THROUGH SIMPLE BOOK CREATION**

**NAME OF WORKSHOP LEADER:** Peruth Kyaligonza

It is suggested that in order to learning to read, there are 10 key steps. From 1-10 these are to read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read! However, due to lack of reading materials, children in schools are not able to easily access the world of literature or develop a love of books and reading. Whilst this may be an issue which can only be addressed in small way, this workshop will aim to develop your skills in reading stories to your pupils. It will also enable you to make some very simple small books which you can develop when back in your schools, to build a variety of reading material for your children,

In the workshop you will explore:

- Why reading stories to your children is of prime importance when attempting to engage children in the reading process
- How to fully engage your pupils when reading them a story
- Making simple low cost books

- Ways in which older children or the community could be used to support in this process.

Workshop facilitator: **Peruth Kyaligonza**. Field Officer Redearth Education. With 20 years' experience in the classroom, Peruth is possibly one of the best teachers of reading in the country and has huge practical experience! She fully implemented the phonics program and her children in P1/P2 learned to read!

16 years with Redearth as a Lead Teacher and as a Field Officer, Peruth now supports other teachers in implementing the programs.

#### LOCATION OF WORKSHOPS

	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Venues</b>	<b>Responsible staff for Directions</b>
1.	<b>Building strong foundations: the power of number bonds</b>	LADO 1	Racheal
2	<b>Bringing place value to life: engaging classroom practices</b>	LADO 2	Racheal
3	<b>Next steps in using phonics: building on the foundations.</b>	D'venuue 1	Norah
4	<b>Pages of possibility: fostering creativity through simple book creation</b>	LADO 3	Racheal
5	<b>Unveiling excellence: enhancing teacher development</b>	LADO 4	Racheal
6	<b>Write, wipe, wow: using mini slates for learning in large classes</b>	Bijja 1	Richard
7	<b>Playful math: strategies for integrating play into math learning!</b>	D'Venuue 2	Norah
8	<b>Stories come alive: how to engage young learners in reading and story-based activities. Di</b>	Country Inn 1	Sharon
9	<b>Reading comprehension: the gateway to lifelong learning. Ronnie</b>	Bijja 2	Richard
10	<b>Mind mapping mastery: harnessing visual thinking for rural educators.</b>	De Venue 3	Norah
11	<b>Classroom connections: cultivating positivity in your classroom.</b>	LADO 5	Racheal
12	<b>Beyond the test: holistic approaches to assessment in rural schools</b>	ECCE Insitute	Christine

13	<b>DEMONSTRATION LESSONS- Rose Tinka supported by Lead teachers Annet and Benard.</b>	RE Centre 2 You need 3 venues for these.	Rogers
14	<b>Innovative Science Teaching on a Budget: Empowering Primary Educators- Suresh, supported by Charles Muhambura-Lead teacher</b>	Country Inn 2	Sharon
15	<b>From vision to action: building stronger schools with supportive management committees.</b>	Bijja 3	Richard
16	<b>Empowering local leadership and ownership</b>	RE Centre 1	Rogers