



## Activity Ideas for Bookbug's Friends

If you'd like to get involved with Bookbug Week but are not sure where to start, we've put together some ideas for easy activities you can do in your library or early years setting. We'd love to hear about your events so please let us know how you got on by sharing your ideas and photos on Facebook!

- **Bring a friend to your Bookbug Session!** If you have space in your Bookbug Sessions, ask families to bring a friend along during Bookbug Week. It's a great way to get new regulars and if people know there will be other first timers there it can be a lot less daunting. Turn the Bookbug Week postcards into invitations and ask families to pass them to a friend. Or if your sessions are at full capacity, ask the children to bring their cuddly toy along – they can still get the postcard invitations too!
- **Involve your library, trust or nursery colleagues too.** Introduce yourselves to families at the start of the session, make your colleagues special 'I'm Bookbug's Friend' badges, or have a welcome person at the desk as families arrive. It's a great chance to show colleagues what actually happens at your Bookbug Session and could help encourage families to find out more about what else you offer in your setting.
- **Create together.** Have a couple of colours of finger paint set out, then ask children to put their hands in, and when they hold hands it blends to makes another colour. Then make a handprint picture – a circle or any shape at all! You could add names or just leave it as a beautiful picture. You could also make smaller pictures – two handprints can make a butterfly – get each child to do two handprints on separate pieces of paper, and a friend to be the other half on each one, then they can each take one home.
- **Use the finger puppets** at your nursery / your Bookbug Session / special event and sing the songs on the back together.
- **Invite a nearby primary school** along and encourage the older children to be befrienders or mentors! You could ask the older children to help show the actions, or if you have time try a shared reading session after the Bookbug Session. If you're a nursery this can be a great transitional activity and it's great to boost the confidence of the older children who know all the words to the Bookbug songs and can share stories with the littler ones.
- **Try an intergenerational Bookbug Session.** Invite grandparents along or if you have a residential or day care centre near you see if you could invite them or organise a visit to share some stories, songs and rhymes together. Try some of the



traditional Scots songs and rhymes from our Song and Rhyme Library like [Ally Bally](#) or [Up a Bogie Lane](#).

- **Make a friendship quilt.** Ask children to draw themselves, animals or creatures on squares and then tape them all together to make a special story blanket. The pictures could be from one of the [friendship stories](#) you're read together, Bookbug's friends from the finger puppets, Bookbug or the children drawing themselves or someone in their family. Try our booklists for some ideas for stories to get you started. You could also try this as a collage for a wall.
- **Try some songs in other languages!** If you have any families who speak another language you could ask if they would like to sing a song, or you could try using a few different ways of saying 'hello' in the Hello Song – hola and bonjour are great for little ones to try!
- **Get drawing!** Ask children to draw a picture of their friend – even if it is their cuddly toy that they've brought to the Bookbug Session.
- **Read some stories about friendship** – there are many forms of friendship and we've got ideas in our booklists about friendship for all ages: [friendship \(0-2s\)](#) and [friendship \(3-7s\)](#), stories about [welcoming refugees](#), stories that [celebrate inclusivity](#) and tales about [animal friends](#).
- **Dance around!** Adults love dancing around the living room and toddlers do too! Try some of the of the songs on the Bookbug CDs that involve lots of movement such as Wind The Bobbin Up on the [Bookbug Baby CD](#), The Shooglie Wooglie on the [Toddler CD](#) or Row, Row, Row Your Boat on the [Explorer CD](#) to get everyone joining in together.