



Introduction to Bookbug Film Transcript

Tracy Cooper

Bookbug is an Early Years programme which aims to inspire a love of books and reading in every child across Scotland. The key components are the pack gifting element where the book packs are gifted at different stages of development. The baby pack and the toddler pack are gifted via the health visitors, and that's a really important link because health visitors have a strong role to play and are very trusted professionals for families, so health visitors have a chance to gift the packs with a message to parents about the importance of reading, talking and singing.

Margaret Clark

For the health visitors to take part in the gifting is crucial. Being able to discuss with parents about their child's development, and how book reading, storytelling, sharing books together, is all part of building a really close relationship.

Tracy Cooper

The Bookbug Pirate Pack which is the pack gifted to all 3-year-olds is gifted via the nurseries. Then there's another pack that's gifted in Primary 1 by the Primary 1 teachers. The contents of the pack may vary slightly year on year but we always do include at least two books and other materials to encourage interaction, and that early interaction that parents and children have is so important because it's helping children not only learn about the world and make sense of the world and build up their relationship with their parents, but it's also setting the foundations for language, literacy and future learning.

Dr Suzanne Zeedyk

Interactions with other people are very much about reading facial expressions, so a lot of interacting with other people is done unconsciously and non-verbally. That's what children and babies discover in a book, because when we are reading the story together and you're watching my face and you're hearing it in my voice, I'm learning about facial expressions. Because if we think that it's about literacy and the words on the page, often it doesn't make sense to – why would you read to a baby who can't yet even talk. The answer is because talking is not just about understanding the names for things, it's about understanding that you and I can relate to each other.

Families at the Bookbug Session

Eyes, nose, cheeky cheeky chin,
Cheeky cheeky, chin, nose, eyes.
Eyes, nose, cheeky cheeky chin,
Cheeky cheeky, chin, nose, eyes.



Tracy Cooper

The Bookbug Sessions are linked to the Bookbug Packs, and it's a great way to engage families who maybe aren't too familiar with what to do with their Bookbug Pack, because they'll be given lots of ideas. You see absolute joy on both the parents faces and the child's faces, through something as simple as sharing a song like Twinkle Twinkle or Row Row Row your Boat.

Renee Gillan

Bookbug Sessions are absolutely brilliant. We always start our sessions off with the Hello Song, so people know when to sit down, they know it's about to start, they can get ready, they can tap their hands, they can get into the rhythm of stamping their feet if they want. Then we always have a tickle, we always do Cross Cross, because we love that, it's a tickle – you get a cuddle at the end of it. Then we will have a song, and we have a rhyme. We have lots of rhymes at Bookbug Sessions.

Pauline Oh

You don't need to know the words, or the songs, just join in, let the babies be free, and then the babies will take over the whole session and they'll all have fun.

Hazel Stothard

Billy absolutely loves the Bookbug Sessions. It's given us a bit more inspiration to just do more songs and stories during the day. Billy's just turned two, so sometimes if we're in the middle of a tantrum, breaking into a spontaneous Baa Baa Black Sheep is actually a really good way to stop a tantrum.

Renee Gillan

There's no charge, everybody can afford to go to a Bookbug Session, and there's a Bookbug Session in almost every library in Scotland.

'A love of books and reading is more important in academic achievement than a child's social or economic background.'

OECD, 'Reading for Change'

Sir Harry Burns

The early years are when we lay down our way of understanding the world; we lay down our way of interacting with other people, we lay down aspects of life such as empathy, ability to get on with other people, relate to them, so unless you get the first two or three years of life right, a huge opportunity for wellbeing in later life is missed.

Emma Richardson

The impact that I see on families is obviously, you know, the literacy and the bonding and that really is relevant, but particularly to us working in the community with families that are sometimes hard to reach, vulnerable, living in a bit of chaos, to come into the project and



have access to something that is soft, that is fun, that is nothing other than just simply spending time together on a level playing field, where you know, everyone is doing Incy Wincy, how can you think that someone has a higher status than you if you're all sitting going waaay? You just can't, you know? You can see the 'them and us' dissolving in that room with the little yellow guy you know, in the middle of it.

Dr Suzanne Zeedyk

Babies' brains are being knit together more rapidly between conception and three than they ever will again. Everything matters to a baby because a baby's brain is built to notice everything; to make meaning of it, and the pathways that get laid down are the pathways that you carry forward with you in life – it doesn't mean that the brain doesn't change later on, brain development happens in new and different ways after three, but the really important point is that it's building on the basis of what happened in those early years.

Sir Harry Burns

When you talk to children from backgrounds that have different levels of stability you will very often find that the children who come from stable family homes have a much more positive view of themselves and their possible futures and part of that process of having a positive view of your future is understanding the way the world works, and a critical part of that is stories. Books and stories allow children to build in their minds possible futures.

Karyn McCluskey

The one thing that I see when I'm looking at some of the young people that have been involved in violence, when I look at their life histories, they don't have the same skills that lots of other people have, they don't have the communication, and the empathy and the problem solving skills that help us all get through life without bumping into alcohol or drugs or violence.

It's really interesting when you look at those skills, because they're developed early years, usually from your mum and dad or from a significant other, somebody who takes a real interest in you and if you don't get them early years, it's really difficult to get them later on.

Sir Harry Burns

The Bookbug Programme is hugely significant for Scottish society in that it makes it very clear to parents who might not otherwise read to their children, the importance of doing so, and this just isn't a way to pass the time, it's a way of exercising the brain and imagination in ways that will fit children for better outcomes in later life.

Thomas Lynch

It's just that quiet time, I think we're so busy, we're so focused on being busy, we've got lots of things to do in our life. Spending five minutes to read a book with our wee ones, it's just priceless isn't it? That to me is what being a parent is about.



Dr Suzanne Zeedyk

Maybe we used to see Bookbug as a literacy programme, but we now understand that Bookbug is building families across the country, because when books arrive in the home, that creates the opportunity for shared experiences, for babies and children to share drama, to share fear, to share anxiety and to learn how that's resolved, and to build the capacity to self-regulate to take care of ourselves. That's much bigger than literacy alone.

Emma Richardson

So I have this dream that in Primary 1 all the children will be sitting there and the teacher will be going to gift the Primary 1 Book Pack and they'll say who here recognises this? And all the hands will shoot up and the chests will go out and they'll be all really confident and every child in the class will say that's Bookbug, because that's what it's about, it's about for everybody, and everybody getting that best start.