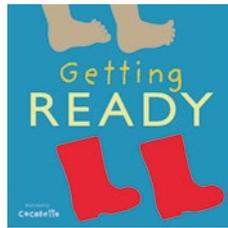


# Tactile books for children with additional support needs – gifting advice

Scottish Book Trust is delighted to be able to provide a supply of tactile titles for children with additional support needs published by Child's Play. These books are a fantastic additional resource for families alongside their regular Bookbug bags.

Developed in consultation with children, families and organisations working with blind and partially-sighted children, these books contain high-contrast images, tactile features and Braille-style numbering. They are suitable for children with a variety of different additional support needs.



**Audio versions** are also available to listen to on the Scottish Book Trust website: [scottishbooktrust.com/tactile-books](http://scottishbooktrust.com/tactile-books)

**Other tactile books:** We also supply a range of *That's Not My...* books published by Usborne.

**To order more:** We supply boxes of mixed Child's Play books and boxes of mixed Usborne books. Each box contains 10 of each title and can be added to your Bookbug bag deliveries or requested at any time by emailing [bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com).

## Key messages for gifting the books

Here are some key messages to share with parents and carers. This will help them get the most out of the books:

- Encourage your child to take an active role in exploring the story through touching the textures and looking at the bright illustrations.
- Don't worry about getting to the end. Share a cuddle while you turn the pages back and forth and go at a pace that suits you both.
- Again! Repeat the story as many times as your child likes.
- Use toys, music or other props to help bring the story to life.
- Hearing your voice and sharing a book will support your child's communication skills. Watch their reactions to see what they like best.

## Contacts to make

Here are a few suggested contacts who may help you gift the books in your area:

- Visit or contact a specialist nursery or parent and child group for children with additional support needs.
- Contact the administrative team at your local Health Service to ensure Health Visitors know about the books.
- Make your Bookbug Session Leaders and local Librarians aware that the books are available.



## Best practice ideas for using the books

'I use them every day. All my families have commented on how good they are. One family with a child with global delay and is autistic has said it's the only book their child engages with and is great to see as it is helping with communication and everyday life when going outside.'

**Early Years Practitioner, Glasgow**

'I approached our school which specialises in teaching children with severe or profound needs and invited the children and their parents/carers to special Bookbug Sessions. The sessions used both touchy feely books and common items that the carer could adapt as a sensory tool e.g. a piece of fur to stroke a child's hand when there is an animal in story, blowing gently across top of head for the wind, an ice cube on hand for cold, an aluminium tray as part of a robot etc. It was a huge success and seeing the expressions and hearing the squeals of laughter when we had all the children with profound needs, and their wheelchairs under the Lycra was fabulous! The school have fed back to me that they have used the rhymes, songs and books on a regular basis and feel more confident in using books in their setting.'

**Bookbug Co-ordinator, South Ayrshire**

'We have used this book to create a story sack to use as a home link activity. The simple text is not overwhelming for families who are not yet confident in reading English. The sequence of the illustrations is self-explanatory therefore allowing the child and parent/carer to share the book in their home language.'

**English as an Additional Language Team, South Ayrshire**

'We added content to the weekly Health Visitors newsletter ensuring that they pass on my contact details to any parent who requires a book for a child with ASN. I have taken the opportunity to offer a grandmother and her grandson one of the ASN assigned titles when they were attending a Bookbug Session. The little boy has cerebral palsy and his grandmother who takes him along to the Bookbug Sessions told me that he loves books.'

**Bookbug Co-ordinator, Aberdeen**



## Further links

Tips to help parents share books with children with additional support needs:

[scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/ASN](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/ASN)

Lots of lovely book lists on our website:

[scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists](http://scottishbooktrust.com/reading/book-lists)

## Key Organisations

RNIB Scotland:

[www.rnib.org.uk/scotland](http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland)

Scottish Autism:

[www.scottishautism.org](http://www.scottishautism.org)

Deaf Action Scotland:

[www.deafaction.org.uk](http://www.deafaction.org.uk)

Capability Scotland:

[www.capability-scotland.org.uk](http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk)

Enable Scotland:

[www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

Photo by Jonathan Ley, Bookbug illustration by Debi Gliori,  
design by Tom Holmes

