

## Gifting the Bookbug Explorer Bag

Thank you for supporting the Bookbug programme by gifting Bookbug Explorer Bags. Every 3-year-old child in Scotland receives a free Bookbug Explorer Bag, available in English and Gaelic versions.

The Bookbug Explorer Bag includes books and materials to encourage families to talk, cuddle, sing and read with their children. Please note it should **not** be given to 2-year-olds or 4-year-olds as these bags are only funded for 3-year-olds, but you can find ideas for involving them in gifting in the Explorer Bag learning resources on our website. **Please have a good look at what's inside the Bookbug Explorer Bag. The contents change every year!**

### Make the most of it!

**The Explorer Bag provides an ideal opportunity to build links between your setting and the family home.**

Before you gift the Bookbug Explorer Bags spend some time building excitement with the children. Practitioners have told us that they notice a big difference in children's excitement and engagement if they are familiar with the books before the bags go home.

### Ideas to build excitement

- Read the books aloud **several times**.
- Let children know they will receive their **own books** in their bag.
- **Follow the children's interests** from the books and provide play and learning opportunities linked to the stories, or on the broader theme of exploring. (Find cross-curricular activity ideas for each book at [scottishbooktrust.com/explorergifting](https://scottishbooktrust.com/explorergifting))
- **Involve** children in planning a special gifting event and ask families to join you.
- **Post photos** on social media or in your learning journals so families can share in the excitement.



## Encourage families to share stories, songs and rhymes at home

You could:

- Share ideas for using the bag contents at home to encourage families to use learning journals or social media to let you know what they've been doing.
- Talk to families about the benefits of spending time sharing songs, rhymes and stories. It's a lovely way to support children's speech and language development and helps to lay the foundations for learning to read.
- Encourage families to find new songs and rhymes by using Bookbug's online Song and Rhyme Library or the free Bookbug app.

Please remind parents that the bags are only for use under adult supervision.

### Talk about libraries

Encourage families to:

- Join their local library and borrow books for babies and children for free. Children of all ages can have library cards of their own!
- Take part in Bookbug Sessions – free sessions of stories, songs and rhymes for children from 0–5 and their families. Find details of local and online Bookbug Sessions on our website  
[scottishbooktrust.com/localbookbugsessions](http://scottishbooktrust.com/localbookbugsessions)

### Funded training for early years settings

We provide funded webinars to support the gifting and use of the Bookbug Explorer Bag in your setting. Find out more and see upcoming dates and recordings of past webinars at [scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining)



### Children who need additional support

CALL Scotland provide symbolised resources to accompany the Bookbug Explorer Bag available at [symbolsforall.org.uk/bookbug](http://symbolsforall.org.uk/bookbug)

Bookbug can also provide tactile books in addition to the Bookbug Bags. Find out more at [scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/asn](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/asn)

### Need more bags?

Contact your local Bookbug Co-ordinator to:

- Order more Bookbug Bags
- Order Gaelic Bookbug Bags
- Request tactile books

Find their details at

[scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/local-contacts](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/local-contacts)

Alternatively, contact the Scottish Book Trust Early Years team on **0131 524 0160** email [bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com](mailto:bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com) or visit [scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug](http://scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug)