

The Bookbug Explorer Bag

Get ready to explore with Bookbug!



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

Every 3-year-old child in Scotland receives a free Bookbug Explorer Bag. It includes books and materials to encourage families to read, sing and play with their children.

To ensure every child can access the books, CALL Scotland have produced symbolised resources for every book. Visit symbolsforall.org.uk/bookbug

A note on the bags:

- The contents vary each year, so please familiarise yourself when you receive your delivery.
- These bags **should only be given to 3-year-olds**, but you can find ideas for involving other children in your setting on our website.

Ideas and activities:

Build the excitement

Early Years staff say they notice a difference in children's excitement and engagement if children are familiar with the books and know they will receive their own copies. You could:

- Read the books with the children several times
- Tell the children that Bookbug has a special gift for them and they will take home their own Bookbug Explorer Bag with copies of the books
- Involve children and their families in planning a gifting event to celebrate taking the bag home
- Post photos on social media or in your learning journals so families can share in the excitement
- You'll find further suggestions linked to the Curriculum for Excellence on our website. Turn over the page to get started!

Inspiring curiosity and creativity

Follow children's interests from the books and support them to explore concepts, themes and characters in more detail. Extending the stories into play deepens children's understanding and inspires a lifelong love of reading.

Runaway Cone

by Morag Hood

Gary the cone just wants a holiday, but the other cones don't know where he's gone! Cue many high jinks with runaway roadworks and emotional machinery as they try to find Gary and bring him home.



Try a clue box to introduce the story

LIT 0-01c, EXA 0-04a, EXA 0-02a, EXA 0-12a, MNU 0-02a

Use a shoe box with a yellow digger, a red helicopter, a plastic bottle with a picture of Gary the traffic cone inside, and six traffic cone props. Make the traffic cones from a cardboard eggbox and use paint pens to colour them orange and white. The cones can also be playful finger puppets to help the children count how many traffic cones are in the story and to spot when one is missing.

Use props to keep the book interesting

LIT 0-01b/LIT 0-11b, EXA 0-14a

While reading the story, encourage the children to join in with the props you have chosen. Open the bottle to reveal the picture of Gary the missing traffic cone. This will help to involve the children in the search for Gary as you read through the next few pages of the story – act out looking high and low and then take to the skies to continue the search.

playtalkread

Many thanks to Pathways Through Play for writing these brilliant activities.

The Pathways Through Play team at PlayTalkRead visit Early Years settings across Scotland, providing storytelling and play sessions that are designed to bring stories to life. They use puppets, props, play resources and arts and crafts, to help children engage with the story and make it an interactive and fun shared experience. Reading out loud is a wonderful way to connect with children and their families, and even a simple story can spark a child's curiosity.

smartplaynetwork.org/playtalkread



Games and activities

HWB 0-14a, MTH 0-17a, MNU 0-20b, LIT 0-02a

Hide printed pictures of traffic cones or your traffic cone props in a sensory bin, or in different places indoors or outdoors. You could hide two traffic cones to represent Gary and Susan or hide all six cones from the story in different places.

You could also play the cup hiding game, using three identical containers and one traffic cone prop. Place the traffic cone under one of the cups, then move the cups around. Take turns guessing which cup the cone is hiding under.

Hen in the Bed

by Katrina Charman and Guilherme Karsten

There were 10 in the bed and the little one said. . . you know the rest! Who is going to be tumbling out of bed this time? Turn the split-pages to find out!



Use the QR code on the book

LIT 0-01b/LIT 0-11b, LIT 0-13A/LIT 0-21a

This book comes with a QR code which takes you to an audio reading of the story, and a song version that you and the children can sing along with. It is a very tactile book as the pages are different sizes so they can be viewed individually or altogether, showing all the animals tucked up in bed. As each animal falls out of the bed, the children can join in with the different animal noises. Point out the sleepy sloth that is sleeping in every picture, until the very last page.

Fun with paper plates EXA 0-02a

Make a paper plate rocking hen by folding a paper plate in half and decorating it to look like the speckled hen. The hen can be rocked backwards and forwards along with the story, and it could be a simple craft activity for the children to make and take home with the book.

Easy stick puppets

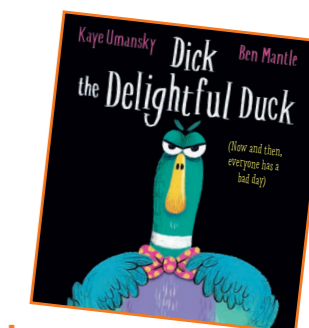
EXA 0-14a, EXA 0-02a

Bring this story to life with your own version of the bed with all the animals in it. Make the bed from a cardboard box and use a piece of fabric for the bedcover. Draw pictures of each animal and attach them to lollipop sticks, to make little stick puppets. Each animal starts off in bed, then the children can take turns removing the animals as you sing or read the story. At the end of the story, the speckled hen asks all the animals to come back, and the children can take turns putting each of the stick animals back to bed.

Dick the Delightful Duck

by Kaye Umansky and Ben Mantle

Dick is normally a very cheerful fella, but when he gets out of bed on the wrong side one morning, everything starts to go wrong. . . can his friends help him feel better?



Explore themes from the story

HWB 0-01a, HWB 0-05a, HWB 0-02a

There are lots of interesting themes to explore, with opportunities to talk about friendship and kindness, and to help children identify and name different feelings and emotions. When reading this story, you can point out how Dick's facial expressions change when he is feeling happy or grumpy and encourage the children to make their own faces to copy him.

Build the excitement

LIT 0-01b/LIT 0-11b

To prepare for reading this story out loud, wrap the book in colourful fabric or paper and tie with a ribbon. As the parcel is unwrapped to reveal the book inside, this will help create additional anticipation and excitement. You could include colourful feathers in the parcel so that when the book is revealed the feathers will provide another clue and link to the main character.

Play activities HWB 0-22a, MNU 0-02b, EXA 0-02a

Play a simple game blowing feathers into the air, then catching them in a net or container as they fall. This could also be an opportunity for naming colours and finding different coloured feathers that match the pictures of Dick the Duck in the story. Colourful pieces of fabric and ribbon can be used to explore different colours and textures, and for children to create new bow ties for Dick the Duck to wear.



Let families know the bag is coming home

Please tell families about the Bookbug Explorer Bag before it goes home. We've created a poster you can put up in your setting. You can also share our social media posts with families.

Encourage families to share stories, songs and rhymes at home

Families are more likely to use the resources in the Bookbug Bags if they understand the benefits of reading and how it can support their child's early learning. You could:

- Show them the parent leaflet in the bag, which has lots of handy tips about how to use the Bookbug Explorer Bag
- Share ideas with families for using the bag at home using learning journals or social media, and encourage parents and carers to tell you what they've been doing
- Tell families about the benefits of sharing books. It's a crucial way to support children's speech and language development and helps lay the foundations for learning to read
- Encourage families to sing and rhyme at home using Bookbug's online Song and Rhyme Library or the free Bookbug app. Try the Explorer playlist to get started!

Welcome parents and carers into your setting, and invite them to join in with an Explorer-themed story, song and rhyme session. Suggested session plans based on each book are available on our website.

Encourage library visits

There are suggestions of other books to discover in the Explorer Activity Book in the Bookbug Explorer Bag. Encourage families to join their local library and borrow books for free. Children of all ages can have library cards of their own!

Join us for webinars and training

We provide funded webinars to support the gifting and use of the Bookbug Explorer Bag in your setting, as well as other training courses to support literacy in the early years.

scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining

Keep in touch

Contact your local Bookbug Co-ordinator for Bookbug Bags, promotional resources including posters and leaflets and local information.

scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/local

Sign up for our Working with Bookbug newsletter for updates, resources and competitions.

scottishbooktrust.com/newsletters

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