



Celebrating World Book Day: home educators resource

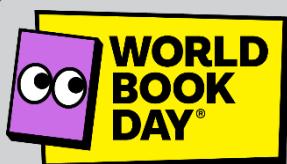
A guide to World Book Day for home educators

**Suitable for early years to older children
Resource created by Scottish Book Trust and World Book Day**

scottishbooktrust.com



Scottish Book Trust is a registered company (SC184248)
and a Scottish charity (SC027669).



Contents

About this resource	2
Why celebrate World Book Day?	3
Home learning activities	5
For all ages	5
For babies and pre-school children	7
For school-age children.....	8
For older children	9
Next steps	10

About this resource

[Scottish Book Trust](#) is a national charity that believes everyone living in Scotland should have equal access to books. Our programmes for children include book gifting, online resources, articles and videos and our [on demand Authors Live broadcasts](#).

[World Book Day](#) is a national celebration which changes lives through a love of books and reading. They are a national charity that operates in the U.K. and Ireland to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. World Book Day 2026 is **Thursday 5 March**.

We have partnered with World Book Day to adapt their resources for Scottish schools, libraries and home educators and help you celebrate World Book Day 2026! On [the Scottish Book Trust website](#), you can find all of the resources including:

- Celebrating World Book Day: early years resource
- Celebrating World Book Day: primary resource
- Celebrating World Book Day: secondary resource
- Celebrating World Book Day: school library resource

- Celebrating World Book Day: home educator resource

You can also find our [designated World Book Day webpage on the Scottish Book Trust website](#), which gathers activities, articles, videos, and more resources that have been handpicked to help you further explore reading for pleasure and the World Book Day £1 titles!

This resource, created in partnership with World Book Day, contains advice and ideas for celebrating World Book Day as part of home education. Throughout, we've highlighted Scottish Book Trust resources you can use as part of your celebration, or to deliver further opportunities to read for pleasure.

Dates for your diary

Date	Activity
12 February	Books available in shops. The earlier you take your tokens to a bookshop, the wider the choice of books will be. See the World Book Day website to sign up to the World Book Day Home Educator and Childminder mailing list to access your £1 home educator token.
5 March	World Book Day 2026
15 March	Final day of token exchange

Why celebrate World Book Day?

Reading for pleasure is a key indicator of a child's future success. In fact, studies show its more important for a child's educational success than the socio-economic class they grow up in¹. Reading for pleasure has benefits across the curriculum for a child's skills and learning, as well as their motivation to learn². It also helps develop key life skills such as empathy, imagination, problem-solving and communication skills³.

By celebrating days like World Book Day, you are demonstrating to children that reading is a fun and worthwhile way to spend their time. By sharing your habits and

preferences as a reader, you are also acting as reading role model, helping build a life-long habit. Throughout this resource, we suggest ways to make reading engaging and fun all year round, not just on World Book Day!

World Book Day has six key principles of reading for pleasure. They believe children are more likely to love reading if:

- Someone reads to them regularly
- They find time to read
- They have books at home
- They know a trusted person who can help them find the right books
- We make reading fun for them
- They are given a choice in what they read

Scottish Book Trust packages

On the Scottish Book Trust website, we've created a [World Book Day page](#) which gathers activities, articles, videos and more resources to help you celebrate World Book Day. For example, if your child or children have enjoyed *Bunny vs Monkey: Total Chaos*, you can watch our [Authors Live broadcast with Jamie Smart](#) where you can learn to draw both bunny and monkey. You can also find fun activities like learning [how to make a mini book](#), [creating story sticks](#) or [creating book trailers](#).

If you're not sure what to read next, you can also find our [book lists](#) which share recommendations you can filter by age and interest.

Scottish Book Trust also have a [Home Activities Hub](#) which we keep up-to-date all year round with activities, videos, book lists, articles and more resources to support you to read for pleasure at home together.

Choosing your £1 book

Before going to get your £1 book, we encourage you to go through the titles on [World Book Day website](#) with your children and talk about the different options together. You might find a series they are already interested in or notice similarities between a specific title and the TV shows, films or games that they like. It's important that children make their own choice about which book they would like, and taking the time to discuss the titles beforehand can help them feel more confident about which book they might enjoy. On the World Book Day website, you can also find [information on how to find your nearest stockist](#).

Home learning activities

For all ages

Visit (and revisit!) your Bookbug and Read Write Count with the First Minister bags

[Bookbug Bags](#) and [Read Write Count bags](#) are gifted as follows:

- [Bookbug Baby Bag](#) (3-5 weeks)
- [Bookbug Toddler Bag](#) (13-15 months)
- [Bookbug Explorer Bag](#) (age 3)
- [Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag](#) (primary 1)
- [Read Write Count with the First Minister \(P2 and P3\)](#)

Whether you've just received a bag or are revisiting a bag, the books and resources have been chosen to be read, played with and explored again and again. This could offer a great conversation starter about how our reading identities change over time. What did you notice the first time you read these books? What do you notice now? What has changed?

If you have older children, putting them in charge of reading to their younger siblings can be a great way to get the whole family reading together. Who can do the best voices?

Dressing up or decorating

Dressing up can be a fun way to celebrate your child's favourite book. World Book Day's dressing-up webpage contains lots of top tips for cheap, easy-to-make costumes that connect meaningfully to reading.

If you'd rather not dress up, there's loads of alternative activities, for example: creating dioramas or collections to represent favourite books or making your own reading mood boards (see [page 9](#)).

Revisiting your books

Look at what books you have at home and where you keep them. World Book Day is a great chance to revisit what books you have and set up a cosy reading space. It doesn't have to be complex – a blanket fort can make reading exciting and new!

Visit your local library

Going to the library is a great way to make books fun and familiar. Use the [mygov.scot website](#) to find your local library. Your librarian will be able to offer book recommendations, and show you how you, and your children, can access books, newspapers, magazines or audio content.

Authors Live

Authors Live is a series of world-class children's author and illustrator events from Scottish Book Trust and BBC Scotland Learning. You can watch [our on demand broadcasts](#) including World Book Day authors such as [A.F. Steadman](#) and [Jamie Smart](#), as well as world class authors such as [Elle McNicoll](#), [Joseph Coelho](#), [Kiran Millwood Hargrave](#), [Nadia Shireen](#) and more! Make it a special occasion by making some popcorn or viewing snacks.

Celebrate together

Go out together to your local library or bookshop for a book recommendation. You could also connect with your local home-educator community – why not set up a

book swap?

For babies and pre-school children

Bookbug sessions

Bookbug Sessions are free events for children aged 0-5 years and their mums, dads and carers. Sessions last around 30 minutes and include songs, rhymes and a story. Going to a Bookbug Session is a great way for families to spend time bonding with each other and meeting other families in their local area. You can find your local one via [the Scottish Book Trust website](#).

Notice their reading preferences

Allow them to choose a book from a small selection and notice which is their favourite (even if it's their favourite to chew!). If you're not sure where to get started, see our article of top tips for reading to babies and young children on [the Scottish Book Trust website](#).

Reading regularly

Incorporate reading into their routine – for example, before bed or at naptime. If you need some ideas or inspiration, see our article on building routine with stories, songs and rhymes [on the Scottish Book Trust website](#). You can also use [the Bookbug Song and Rhyme Library](#) or the [Bookbug Songs and Rhymes app](#) on your phone to regularly share songs and rhymes together.

What does reading look like for you?

Think about what reading looks like for you as a family – it can be a quiet moment to relax and cuddle, or it can be a more playful activity that takes you all around the house.

Books are play

Add books to your baby or toddler's play. Try tying it into activities they're already enthusiastic about.

For school-age children

Reading rivers

LIT 0-01b/0-11b/1-01a/2-01a, LIT 0-14a/1-14a/2-14a, LIT 0-07a/0-16a/1-16a/2-16a, LIT 1-28a/1-29a/2-28a, EXA 0-02a/1-02a/2-02a, EXA 0-04a/1-04a/2-04a

A reading river is a poster that charts what a child has read, allowing them to reflect on their own reading journey and celebrate the reading they do at home. From the books they read as a baby, to recipes or the instruction guides from favourite hobbies to magazines or comics. To find out more about reading rivers, see the [Multilingualism in Schools guide on their website](#). The following activity has been developed by Dr. Sabine Litte from the University of Sheffield:

Five steps to creating a multilingual reading river:

Step 1

Think back to when you were little: who were the people reading with you? Ask them for help to remember which books and other texts were important to you then, and what languages they were in.

Step 2

Think beyond books: in a reading river, all texts matter. Is reading messages from your friends important, or reading a particular magazine? Do you love cooking and reading recipes? Do you read as part of gaming, or to follow celebrities online? It all counts, and it all matters!

Step 3

“Important” doesn’t always mean “favourite”. In fact, some reading might be important because you didn’t enjoy it at all, or because it was difficult to read! Or perhaps it links to a special person: a book received from a grandparent, or something you read together with a friend. It could also be what a book stands for: the first book you read in a specific language or the first thing you read after moving

to a new country. You, and only you, decide what is important and why.

Step 4

Think about the languages you speak, and when and where they come into your reading river. Has this changed over time or is it different for different things you read (books, magazines, webpages, gaming, etc)?

Step 5

Your reading river is your story, so make sure you tell it. Share your rivers with each other!

Create a reading mood board

LIT 0-04a/1-04a/2-04a, LIT 0-01b/0-11b/1-11a/2-11a

World Book Day has created [a printable activity sheet](#) which you can use to create your own reading mood board. This is a great way to promote conversations about reading and how reading can make you feel, as well as role modelling reading and sharing book recommendations.

Make a Read Your Way bookshelf

LIT 1-11a/2-11a

Go through your books and discuss ways of reading that suit particular moods or time of day. Allow your children to organise their books according to their own system – whether mood, genre or their own ideas!

For older children

Book recommendation videos

LIT 2-04a/3-04a/4-04a, LIT 2-14a/3-14a/4-14a, TCH 2-01a/3-01a/4-01a,

EXA 2-14a/3-14a/4-14a

Why not take up the challenge of creating your own 10-second video on one of the following topics:

- An introduction to their to-be-read pile
- 'I've never found anything I want read, but I do like...'

- The books that make me...laugh/cry/think/change the way I act
- A top tip or reading recommendation
- A 10-second summary of a book

You can also use [our resource on Book reviews and trailers on the Scottish Book Trust website](#).

Reading routines

Make reading a bit of your routine each day. You could:

- Find a book you want to read and find some time each day to read it
- Find a podcast or audiobook and listen to it together whilst doing something else (e.g. crafting, drawing, etc.)
- Talk to someone about books every day: ask what they're reading and where they read it
- Think about how you want to feel when you read and ask someone for a book recommendation to suit the mood

Next steps

Promoting reading for pleasure is important all year, not just on World Book Day! For more support to read together, see:

- Our [World Book Day section of the Scottish Book Trust website](#) gathers activities, articles, videos and further resources to further extend reading for pleasure and World Book Day's £1 titles.
- Scottish Book Trust's [Home Activities Hub](#) contains activities, videos, book lists, articles and more resources to support you to read for pleasure at home together.
- World Book Day's [Resources Hub](#) contains lots more reading for pleasure ideas, resources for World Book Day and all year round!

- You can find further activities mapped onto Curriculum for Excellence in our [early years, primary and secondary World Book Day resources](#). These activities have been designed for school use, but please do feel free to adapt these for home learning!

Endnotes

¹ [“Reading for Change: Performance and Engagement across Countries”](#), PISA 2020

² [“Motivation During an Excessively Challenging Reading Task: The Buffering Role of Relative Topic Interest”](#), The Journal of Experimental Education. 2011.

³ [“The role of home learning environment and emerging insights into the impact of the pandemic”](#). National Literacy Trust. 2022.