

Gifting the Bookbug Explorer Bag

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

Give out these bags during Bookbug Week (18–24 May 2026). The Bookbug Explorer Bag includes books and materials to encourage families to talk, cuddle, sing and read with their children. The 2026 bags should be gifted to children who will start Primary 1 in 2028. Please do **not** gift to 2-year-olds or to those in their pre-school year. We have ideas for involving those children in gifting in the Explorer Bag learning resources on our website.

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. Check out cross-curricular activity ideas, author films and more at scottishbooktrust.com/explorergifting

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.
- ▶ **Involve** children in planning a special gifting event during Bookbug Week 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

- Encourage families to get involved in local Bookbug Week events:
scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugweek
- Talk to families about the benefits of spending time sharing songs, rhymes and stories. They are essential for children's speech and language development and help 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 Bookbug Sessions on our website or free Bookbug app
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



Children who need additional support

CALL Scotland provide symbolised resources to accompany the Bookbug Explorer Bag available at symbolsforall.org.uk/bookbug

Bookbug can also provide tactile books in addition to the Bookbug Bags. Find out more at 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

Alternatively, contact the Scottish Book Trust Early Years team on **0131 524 0160** email bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com or visit scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug

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