



Scottish Book Trust

inspiring readers and writers

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.

It includes books and materials to encourage mums, dads and carers to talk, cuddle, sing and share stories and rhymes with their children. It follows on from the Bookbug Baby and Toddler Bags, and is for 3-year-old children. Please note it should **not** be given to the pre-schoolers 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 is 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.)
- **Involve** children in planning a special gifting event. If current guidance allows you to bring parents in to your setting, then ask them to join you.
- **Post photos** on social media so families can share in the excitement.

Let families know that the bag is coming home

Please tell families about the Explorer Bag before it goes home. We've created a slip which you can send home to let them know about the bag, or tell them on social media or the apps you use in your setting.



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 sharing stories, songs and rhymes and how they can support their child's early learning. We've included a leaflet in the bag which provides tips and ideas for parents and carers.

You could:

- Share ideas for using the bag contents at home to support their children's learning and 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.

A leaflet about Bookbug in Easy Read format and a selection of other languages is available on our website for you to share with families.

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 0–4 and their families. Find details of local and online Bookbug Sessions on the free Bookbug app or at 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, as well as other training courses to support literacy in the early years. Find out more and see upcoming dates at scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining

Children with additional support needs

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 and get ideas for inclusive stories, songs and rhymes 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 0179**, email bookbug@scottishbooktrust.com or visit scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug