

Bookbug Session: Outdoors Spring/Summer

An outdoor Bookbug Session doesn't need to follow the same format as an indoor one. You might choose to have a 'treasure trail' to follow with different songs and rhymes to do at each stop. The book could be shared at different points especially if it's a book about nature or animals. Or maybe you'll have a 'Bear Hunt' or a 'Gruffalo Trail' – the possibilities are endless. Search 'outdoors' on our website for more ideas and have a look at this article about [the joy of reading outside](#).

Activity type	Title	Benefits	Tips
Introduction song	The Hello Song	Familiar start – lets everyone know a Bookbug session has started.	Smile and use names if you know them.
“Transition song”	What is in my bag/the tree/ today?	Engages and builds anticipation. Great to introduce when attention is waning.	Use your environment – you could find objects in your bag (e.g. a teddy) or on a tree or you can point something out that links to a rhyme or song. (e.g. a duck)
Familiar rhymes	Round and Round the Garden	Encourages early numeracy skills Tickling rhymes encourage parent-child bonding.	Do tickling rhymes face to face on baby (or Bookbug's hand or tummy to model) older children could run around the garden then take big steps and run to a grown up for a tickle at the end.
Action Rhymes & songs	Swing Me Over The Water Little Peter Rabbit Way Up High in the Apple Tree	Lots of fun for families as they swing their child in the air. Actions help children understand the rich vocabulary in this song. Families find it easier to remember rhymes if they fit into a daily routine.	A great one for when near water or while a child is in a swing at the park. Little babies can be rocked gently. Older children can join hands and swing. A good song for using lycra. Get everyone joining in and having fun with all the actions. Suggest that families look out for trees when out and about to remind them to say this rhyme. A good one for meal or snack time too.

Book	<u>My First Book of Birds by Zoe Ingram Walker Books</u>	Some children prefer non-fiction books and this book will help them learn about birds in their area. Great for all ages – older children can learn lots of facts and younger children can learn about colours, parts of birds and words to do with birds. It encourages observation and listening skills too.	This book could spark off lots of extension activities. Point out the colours and parts of the birds. Suggest families try to spot them when out. See if children can flap their wings and “fly” around the room. Lots of opportunities to bring the book to life outside, looking at colours, shapes, habitat and food. Bird feeders are a great way to bring nature up close if you are in an EY setting!
Action songs	<u>All the Little Ducks Go Upside Down</u>	This song is great for motor development: children can wriggle, make beaks with their hands and even try to go upside down.	Use simple hand actions as you sing.
Active rhymes	<u>Creeping, Creeping Goes the Little Cat</u> <u>Up Like a Rocket</u> (words and actions below)	The anticipation in this simple rhyme encourages listening and waiting skills. Helps children understand position words and concepts while having fun.	Gently tickle and bounce babies. Get older children to creep like a cat and hop like a bunny! Babies can be lifted gently in all the directions in this song. Older children can listen for the direction word and can move accordingly when they hear it. A scarf or lycra could be used – everyone holds on to the edge and moves with it. Lots of fun!
Familiar Songs with Actions	<u>Old Macdonald</u> <u>Little Green Frog</u>	Animal noises can be the first “words” some wee ones say. The actions and repetition in this old favourite help with understanding the meaning. Babies love mimicking tongue movements, this all helps with speech development.	Have lots of toy animals in a bag and have a child pick one out then sing the appropriate verse. Encourage lots of loud mooing and quacking! Leave a gap before the animal sound to encourage joining in. Find your inner silly and have lots of fun!
Lullabies with finger puppets	<u>Baa Baa Black Sheep</u>	Lullabies calm and soothe both children and adults. They encourage closeness and cuddles and can be used anytime of the day!	You can change the words to personalise this song. (“one for the wee baby who lives down the lane”)

Final song	The Goodbye Song	Tells everyone the session is ending.	Wave, smile and use names if you know them.
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