



Scottish Book Trust
inspiring readers and writers

Bookbug Session: Animals

With international Cat and Dog days in August we thought we'd celebrate our furry, feathered (and a few other) friends with a Bookbug session dedicated to animals.

Find most of these songs in our Song & Rhyme Library. For the others marked with *, find the words below.

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	Two Little Dicky Birds	Finger rhymes promote motor skills	Once familiar, make this rhyme personal by adding children's names or different concepts (e.g. Two little dicky birds sitting on a leaf, one called Jason and the other called Keith) or bring in concepts like these: Two little dicky birds sitting on a cloud, one called quiet and one called loud; Two little dicky birds flying down low, one called fast and the other called slow!
	Roon About Moose	Positive touch, cuddles and tickles get the happy hormones flowing, encouraging bonding.	Build the excitement by slowing down before the tickles, children love anticipating the fun bit. Try this on different hands, toes and even tummies.
Active Rhymes	Creeping Creeping Goes the Little Cat	The anticipation in this simple rhyme encourages listening and waiting skills.	Gently tickle and bounce babies. Get older children to creep like a cat and hop like a bunny!
Songs with Actions	Old Macdonald	Animal noises can be the first "words" some wee ones say. The actions and repetition in this old favourite help with understanding the meaning.	Have lots of toy animals in a bag and have a child pick one out then sing the appropriate verse or take requests for any sort of animal! Encourage lots of loud mooing and quacking! Leave a gap before the animal sound to encourage joining in.

Babies love mimicking tongue

	Little Green Frog	Babies love mimicking tongue movements, this all helps with speech development.	Find your inner silly and have lots of fun!
	Five Little Ducks	The repetition of “Quack” and the actions that go with it help children with understanding and remembering the words.	Show the ducks going from 5 to 1 on your fingers, or use rubber ducks. Older children could be the ducks!
			Leave a gap after “Mummy duck said...” and encourage the children to join in with an action/words.
Book	This is a Dog by Ross Collins Published by Nosy Crow	There’s a dog on the loose and he’s determined to hijack a First Animals book. Dog is excitable and full of charm and loves to be centre-stage, but he must act quickly when the other animals get angry!	Children could listen out for animal names and when they hear it, make the animal noise.
Active songs	Katie Bairdie	The pre-literacy building blocks of rhythm and rhyme help to introduce all sorts of animals on Katie’s farm.	Encourage children to make gestures for the animals, dance and get everyone involved by encouraging adults and children to respond “Aye she did!”
	Sleeping Bunnies	Lots of repetition helps with understanding. Children need to listen and wait before they can hop.	Babies can be rocked then bounced gently and older children can lie down and “sleep” in anticipation of the hopping!
Lullabies / calming songs	Baa Baa Black Sheep	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 baby who lives down the lane”)
	A Leopard Has Lots of Spots		Grown-ups can gently make spots and stripes on a baby. Older children can do this on a toy, themselves, or each other.
Final song	The Goodbye Song	Tells everyone the session is ending.	Wave, smile and use names if you know them.

Please read our guide on permission to read books aloud online

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/bookbug/online-bookbug-sessions-recommendations-and-permissions>

*** What Is In My Bag Today** (*sung to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*)

I wonder what’s in my bag today, bag today, bag today

I wonder what’s in my bag today

Come and take a look

At Bookbug’s favourite book (*this line can be left out for songs and rhymes or added at story time*)

