

The Bookbug Explorer Bag

Get ready to explore with Bookbug!



The Explorer Bag provides an ideal opportunity to build links between your setting and the family home.

Every 3-year-old child in Scotland receives a free Bookbug Explorer Bag. It includes books and materials to encourage families to read, sing and play with their children.

To ensure every child can access the books, CALL Scotland have produced symbolised resources for every book. Visit symbolsforall.org.uk/bookbug

A note on the bags:

- The contents vary each year, so please familiarise yourself when you receive your delivery.
- These bags are for children in their ante-preschool year and **should only be given to 3 year olds**, but you can find ideas for involving other children in your setting on our website.

Ideas and activities:

Build the excitement

Early years staff say they notice a difference in children's excitement and engagement if children are familiar with the books and know they will receive their own copies. You could:

- Read the books with the children several times
- Tell the children that Bookbug has a special gift for them and they will take home their own Bookbug Explorer Bag with copies of the books
- Involve children in planning a gifting event to celebrate taking the bag home
- Post photos on social media or in your learning journals so families can share in the excitement
- You'll find further suggestions linked to the Curriculum for Excellence on our website. Turn over the page to get started!

Find everything you need at
scottishbooktrust.com/explorergifting

Inspiring curiosity and creativity

Follow children's interests from the books and support them to explore concepts, themes, and characters in more detail. Extending the stories into play deepens children's understanding and inspires a lifelong love of reading.

Follow the Trail: Trucks

by Dorling Kindersley

With trails for little hands and other fun tactile elements, this chunky board is perfect for all truck enthusiasts out there. Spot the different trucks and learn about all the things they do – which one is your favourite?



Road safety

HWB 0–18a, HWB 0–22a

Use this book as an opportunity to talk about road safety, traffic lights and zebra crossings. You can incorporate the red, amber and green into action games. Ask the children to pretend to be a vehicle and move around in the space available. Someone will call red and the children have to stop, when amber is called they have to run in the spot, and when green is called they can move around the space again.

Sand tray trucks

HWB 0–19a, EXA 0–12a

Encourage curiosity, imagination and creativity through small world play using construction trucks in the sand. Add additional materials to extend the play (rocks, sticks, pebbles, corks) and ask children for their ideas too.

People who help us

HWB 0–17a, EXA 0–02a, EXA 0–01a

Who can we call in an emergency? Start the discussions around emergency services: what they do, how they can help, do they know the emergency number 999? Extend this activity by creating some firefighter hats using paper plates. Use the hats as props during singing time. Try:

Five Little Fire Fighters Standing in a Row

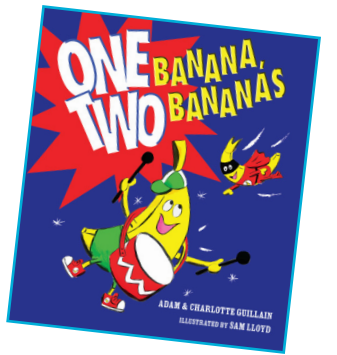
Five little fire fighters standing in a row,
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 they go,
Hop on the engine with a shout,
Quicker than a wink the fire is out.
Four little fire fighters standing in a row,
1, 2, 3, 4 scoosh they go,
Hop on the engine with a shout,
Quicker than a wink the fire is out.



One Banana, Two Bananas

by Adam & Charlotte Guillain and Sam Lloyd

This madcap caper is brilliant for learning the numbers one to ten with a catchy rhyme which zips the story along. With bananas, llamas and pyjamas, there's something for everyone in this very funny book.



Create your own llama

EXA 0–2a

Use cotton wool or pieces of wool for the children to create their own llama. Children could draw their llama or you can have pre-made templates for them to use or cut out. Each llama in the story has a blanket with a different pattern on it. Encourage the children to explore what kind of patterns they can create for their llama blanket.

Healthy eating

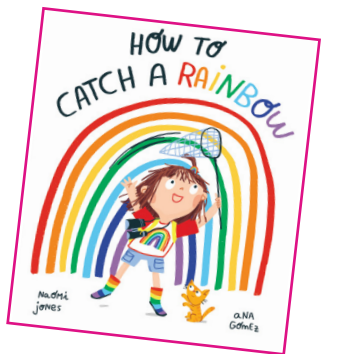
HWB 0–029a, MNU 0–02a, MNU 0–20a

Help the children create a chart with pictures and names of different fruits. Encourage them to ask each other what their favourite fruit is then mark it on the chart with a tally. Ask the children to take a tally sheet home and talk to their family about which fruits they like best.

How to Catch a Rainbow

by Naomi Jones and Ana Gomez

Armed with a fishing net and ginger cat, Freya is determined to catch her very own rainbow, but when things don't go as expected she uses her ingenuity to make one herself. This lovely book is all about exploring nature and learning about different colours.



Rainbow necklace threading

HWB 0–21a, MTH 0–13a

Dye some penne pasta using food colouring the night before and sort into coloured bowls. Using the dried pasta and some string, support fine motor skills by encouraging the children to thread the pasta onto the string. Children can create their own patterns or you can have pre-made colour sequence cards to guide them.

Rainbow colour sorting

MTH 0–16a, HWB 0–21a, TCH 0–10a

Explore a variety of textures in this fun sorting activity. Use pompoms, buttons, feathers, blocks and coloured bowls. Ask the children to sort the objects into the matching bowl. Talk about the different colours and textures (hard, soft, squishy, smooth, rough). Which bowl has the most or the least?

Floating and sinking

SCN 0–15a, MNU 0–20b

Collect a variety of items from your playroom, put them into a basket and fill up your water tray with water. Which items float and which items sink? Encourage the children to predict and experiment. Encourage mark making by creating a chart and support the children to create their own marks to represent their predictions and their findings.

Rainbow fruit salad skewers

HWB 0–32a, HWB 0–30a, HWB 0–01a

Using skewers and a variety of coloured fruit (strawberries, kiwi, orange, raspberries, pineapple) encourage the children to create their own rainbow snack. Talk about the different colours, textures and tastes and use it as an opportunity to explore healthy eating. What fruits did they enjoy most/least? What are the similarities and differences between the fruit?



Let families know the bag is coming home

Please tell families about the Explorer Bag before it goes home. We've created a poster you can put up in your setting. You can also share our social media posts with families.

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 reading and how it can support their child's early learning. You could:

- Show them the parent leaflet in the bag, which has lots of handy tips about how to use the Explorer Bag
- Share ideas with families for using the bag at home using learning journals or social media, and encourage parents and carers to tell you what they've been doing
- Tell families about the benefits of sharing books. It's a lovely way to support children's speech and language development and helps lay the foundations for learning to read
- Encourage families to sing and rhyme at home using Bookbug's online Song and Rhyme Library or the free Bookbug app. Try the Explorer playlist to get started!

Welcome parents and carers into your setting, and invite them to join in with an Explorer-themed story, song and rhyme session. Suggested session plans based on each book are available on our website.

Encourage library visits

There are suggestions of other books to explore in the activity booklet. Encourage families to join their local library and borrow books for free. Children of all ages can have library cards of their own!

Join us for webinars and training

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.

scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining

Keep in touch

Contact your local Bookbug Co-ordinator for Bookbug Bags, promotional resources including posters and leaflets and local information.

scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/local

Sign up for our Working with Bookbug newsletter for updates, resources and competitions.

scottishbooktrust.com/explorergifting

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