

The Bookbug Explorer Bag

Get ready to explore with Bookbug!



The Bookbug 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 **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 and their families 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!

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.

Bunnies on the Bus

by Philip Ardagh and Ben Mantle

Bunnies on the bus, bunnies in the aisles, bunnies on the roof! A madcap adventure through Sunnytown with a bunny-filled bus speeding through the streets to the horror of passers-by. There's lots of easy repetition for children to join in with and many fun things to spot and talk about.



Transport and road safety

HWB 0–18a

In the story, there are many different vehicles on the road. Use this as an opportunity to talk about road safety, traffic lights and zebra crossings. Ask the children to pretend to be a vehicle such as a car, bus or bicycle and move around in the space available. Someone will call **red**, and the children must stop; when **amber** is called, they must run on the spot; and when **green** is called, they can move around the space again. Maybe someone could be the Lollipop Person and help people across the road.

Creating maps

TCH 0–14a

Help the children draw a simple map using different mark making materials. Mark some bus stops along the way. Where would their bus stop? At the shops, cinema, nursery, library or their home? This is a great opportunity to talk to children about the places where they live, visit, play and learn while encouraging fine motor skills.

Expressive arts

EXA 0–04a

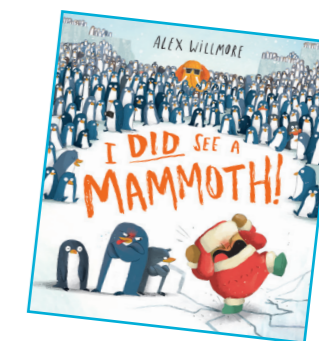
Play **Bus Colour Snap**. Draw different coloured buses on some card, cut them out, shuffle them and deal out to the children. Play a game of snap in the usual way but the children must also shout out the bus colour if the pairs match. You could also introduce cars and bicycles!

Can you make a frieze on the wall of your nursery or early years setting? A frieze featuring roads, transport, shops and buildings offers a multi-faceted learning opportunity, promoting expressive arts, cognitive, social and emotional development while helping children understand the world around them.

I Did See a Mammoth!

by Alex Willmore

The Antarctic is such an exciting place full of penguins, penguins and... more penguins. Who wants to study penguins when you can spot a mammoth instead? A dancing, swimming and skateboarding woolly mammoth! Will anyone believe the young explorer that mammoths exist? A brilliant read-aloud picture book that will have everyone joining in.



Nature walk

MNU 0–20a

In the story, the explorers are on the lookout for penguins. Use this story to discover all the wonderful things in the children's local environment. You could go on a wildlife walk, a nature walk or a transport walk. You might have noticed the cameras in the illustrations. Explorers document their findings in lots of different ways to help them understand and remember what they found. When you go on your walk, why not take out some cameras or iPads for the children to document their findings?

Exploring water

SCN 0–05a

The Antarctic is very cold and you will find lots of snow and ice there. Encourage the children to think about how we can turn water into ice. Collect a range of containers to create your ice: cups, ice-cube trays, rubber gloves, etc. How long does it take to freeze? Encourage the children to make estimates. Why not add things to your water before you freeze it? Small toys, dinosaurs or sea creatures for the children to excavate later. You could even use lentils, rice and pasta to discover if they change after being in water and then frozen.

Creating penguins

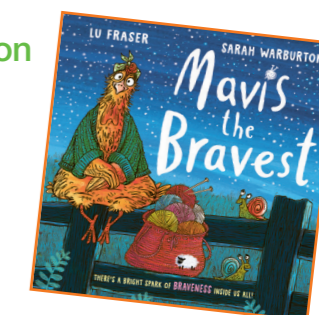
LIT 0–02a

At the end of the story, we discover that there are 18 different species of penguin that live in the Southern Hemisphere, each with a different name. Can the children imagine what these penguins might look like just from the name? Select a few species of penguin and ask the children to describe and draw what they think they might look like based on their name.

Mavis the Bravest

by Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton

Mavis is a bit of a chicken in every sense of the word. She's scared of nighttime, daytime and everything in between. The only thing that keeps her calm is the constant click clack of her knitting needles. But when, one night, her woolly pal Sandra is kidnapped, can Mavis find a spark of bravery inside herself to fight off the thief and save her?



What's that sound?

SCN 0–11a

Mavis hears a lot of different noises on the farm – can the children identify the sounds they hear in their environment? Take the children outside and ask them to close their eyes and listen. What sounds can they hear? What do they think made that sound? If you want to explore specific sounds, find soundbites online of different environmental sounds, animal sounds or transport sounds. Can the children identify the different sounds they hear?

Weaving

TCH 0–4b

Mavis loves knitting, so encourage children to create their own designs using a variety of materials, through weaving. Using different coloured paper strips and pre-prepared slitted card, encourage children to weave the different colours to create a woven pattern. Introduce the children to different textiles such as laces, pipe cleaners, string or wool. Can the children use these materials with different threading cards? Which one was hardest to use?

Let's get talking

HWB 0–01a, 0–44a, 0–44b

In the story, Mavis is friends with Sandra. Encourage the children to talk about who their friends are, what makes a good friend, and what they like to play with each other. To extend this discussion, ask them to draw a picture of their friend. This story also gives us an opportunity to talk about the things we might find scary, or times when we've felt brave. Give the children time and space to share their thoughts and experiences and help them understand who they can talk to if they do feel worried, upset or scared about something.





Let families know the bag is coming home

Please tell families about the Bookbug 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 Bookbug 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 discover in the Explorer Activity Book in the Bookbug Explorer Bag. 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/newsletters

Bookbug illustration by Debi Gliori.

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