



Bookbug Sessions: Guidelines for Nurseries and Early Years Settings

Thank you for choosing to run Bookbug Sessions in your nursery/early years setting.

Bookbug Sessions are a great way to engage parents in nursery. They build relationships with families and model songs, rhymes and stories. Participating in a Bookbug Session in nursery can help to strengthen the links between nursery and home and also give you an opportunity to share messages about how stories, songs and rhymes support literacy development with parents.

Bookbug Sessions are widely available at libraries all across Scotland. Bookbug Sessions in nursery are a great way to encourage families to take part in more sessions at their local library, or visit the library to borrow books.

A nursery based Bookbug Session may differ slightly from a community Bookbug Session and there are some things you will need to consider to help you plan your Bookbug Sessions.

What is a Bookbug Session?

A Bookbug Session is approximately 30 minutes long and includes songs, rhymes and a book. Parents/carers are encouraged to take part with their child and join in with actions, songs and rhymes. A Bookbug Session is always free and should always be led by a trained Bookbug Session Leader. Bookbug Sessions should never be used to promote religious, political or commercial groups or ideas. Bookbug Sessions cannot be charged for.

Bookbug Session Leader Training

Bookbug Sessions should always be led by a leader who has completed Bookbug Session Leader training. The training covers a wide range of relevant book sharing, musical and child development topics. The training is very interactive and includes lots of practical activities underpinned by research to support child development and family relationships.

For more information about Bookbug Training, including eligibility criteria, please visit scottishbooktrust.com/bookbugtraining.



Running a session in Nursery

If you are running a Bookbug Session in your nursery, **please let your Bookbug Co-ordinator know**. This is important to ensure that they can keep you up to date with any local or national programme updates. They will also need to collect statistics of the number of sessions and the number of adults and children at each session. They may also be able to provide you with additional stickers! You can find your Bookbug Co-ordinator's details at scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/local.

Engaging parents

Please invite parents and carers to come and join in with the Bookbug Session. Lots of nurseries have had great success running intergenerational Bookbug Sessions and inviting grandparents to join in the fun. Don't be discouraged if parents and carers aren't able to attend or don't immediately engage – keep reminding them or try having one or two Bookbug Sessions as part of a bigger special event to engage them. It may take time to establish your Bookbug Session.

You could include a Bookbug Session as part of your Bookbug Explorer Bag gifting. It's a great way to engage families and give them an introduction to Bookbug Sessions while also building excitement and engagement with their child's Bookbug Explorer Bag.

We know that it might not be possible for every child to have a parent or carer present. **Even if a child's parent or carer is unable to attend, all children should have the opportunity to participate in the Bookbug Session.**

Planning your Bookbug Session:

Here are some things to think about:

- **A suitable space:** Adults and children should be able to sit in a circle together and have space to move around.
- **Advertising your session:** If you need blank Bookbug Session template posters, you can download them from the [Scottish Book Trust website](http://scottishbooktrust.com) or contact your local Bookbug Co-ordinator. Display the posters where parents can see them, or pass them to parents as you tell them about the session. A template letter is attached to help you tell parents about the Bookbug Session.
- **Time and Frequency of Bookbug Sessions:** Think about how frequently you'd like to have your Bookbug Session. Try different days and times as a way of engaging more families and ensuring that all children who attend your nursery have an opportunity to participate in the Bookbug Session.



- **Plan a taster Bookbug Session at induction:** If parents are attending an induction, could you include a short Bookbug Session as part of this? It would be a great way to get to know your families. You can also let parents know that Bookbug Sessions will be happening in nursery and how you will let them know about the upcoming Bookbug Sessions.
- **Recording numbers:** Scottish Book Trust needs to know how many Bookbug Sessions you run in your nursery and how many adults and children attend. This information is crucial for reporting to funders including Scottish Government. You should think about how you will collect and record this information after each session so that it can be easily given to your local Bookbug Co-ordinator once a year. Please check with your local co-ordinator what information they collect and how they collect it.
- **Bookbug's Song and Rhyme Library:** If you're looking for songs and rhymes to include in your session, visit Bookbug's Song and Rhyme Library. This free, online resource has lots of videos so you can learn a new song or rhyme or maybe even remember a forgotten favourite. You could also encourage parents to visit the Song and Rhyme Library for ideas too. scottishbooktrust.com/songandrhyme

Adapting the Bookbug Session for Nursery

Interaction and participation is at the core of all Bookbug Sessions. You may need to think carefully about which songs and rhymes you include and how you could adapt the activity for children who do not have a parent or carer with them.

If children do not have a parent or carer present, they could:

- Join in with a nursery staff member
- Work together in partners or small groups
- Use a teddy or doll – allow children to take on the responsibility of being the adult.

Alternatively, you could choose songs and rhymes that don't require a partner. Some partner games and activities work well if you put the group into a big circle and encourage everyone to work together. Try games like *Cross, Cross* where everyone can sit in a circle and trace on the person in front of them. Other circle games like *Ring o' Roses* and *Zoom Zoom Zoom* are great ways to get people moving that don't require a partner.



Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

Re: Bookbug Sessions in Nursery

We are very excited to invite you to nursery to take part in a Bookbug Session with your child/ren. Bookbug Sessions are fun story, song and rhyme sessions. They're very relaxed and we hope you're able to come and join in the fun. Don't worry if you don't know the words or the actions – we'll lead the session and you can follow along.

Why Bookbug Sessions?

Bookbug Sessions are a great way to help your child develop their speaking, listening and understanding – all an important part of getting ready for school and helping children learn. Songs and rhymes help children's language and communication development and set the foundations for learning. Most of all though, Bookbug Sessions are a fun way for you and your child to spend time together.

What to expect

The session will last approximately 30 minutes. We will lead the songs and rhymes, and read the story – so you just have to join in with your child.

If you can't come

If you're unable to join us, you're welcome to invite another family member or friend to come on your behalf. We understand that this might not be possible and want to reassure you that your child will still be able to participate in the session.

Don't forget – you can also join in with Bookbug Sessions at the local library. We encourage all our families to visit the local library to take part in Bookbug Sessions and borrow books – your child can even have their own library card!

Date and Time

We look forward to welcoming you to our Bookbug Session on

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