

FOR **FUN** IDEAS TO KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED...

...JUST OPEN UP.



PRIMARY 2

A handy parent guide to
make the most of your bag.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

What is Read, Write, Count?

Every Primary 2 and Primary 3 child in Scotland receives a Read, Write, Count bag filled with books, activities and games to enjoy and keep. The bags are gifted and developed by Scottish Book Trust in partnership with Education Scotland and funded by Scottish Government, and provide a great opportunity to explore reading, writing and numeracy with your child.

How to use this guide

This guide is full of useful ideas to help you throughout the day, using the bag and its content as inspiration. Being a parent can be great fun, but it can also be challenging, especially when trying to keep them entertained all the time.

That's why we've come up with the following tips, games and activities that you can easily slip into your daily routine to help keep your child happy and busy throughout the day. Dedicating some time out of your day for learning is great for both you and your child. Whether you're at home or out and about, these activities can help you enjoy some quality time together, create some time for you to get on with things, and are a great way to find out what's going through their minds!

Activities at a glance

Look out for the following icons to let you know what type of activity it is.



**Reading
activity**



**Writing
activity**



**Counting
activity**



**Listening
and talking
activity**



In the bag, you will find:

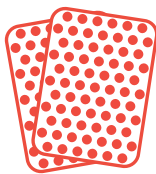
Two books



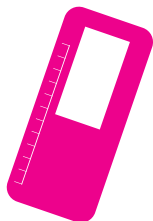
- **The Bug Collector**
by Alex G Griffiths
- **The Biggest Story**
by Sarah Coyle and Dan Taylor



**A notebook
and writing
pencil**



**Shape Shuffle
card game with
Talk it Out and
Act it Out on
the reverse**



**A bookmark
with magnifying
glass and ruler**



**This parent/
carer guide**



- Unpack the bag with your child and see what's inside.
- Lay out all of the items and talk about them, helping your child to get excited.
- Then go ahead and have some fun! Everything you need is in the bag and all the activity ideas you'll need to make the most of the items are in this book. So please refer back whenever you need to!

READING TOGETHER RELAXING TOGETHER



Reading with your children is great for both of you and gives you time to relax. It's never too early or late to start. In the bag, you will find two books, chosen for you and your child to read with each other. We hope you both like them.

If you want to find more books to enjoy together, visit your local library. The librarian can help you get a library card if you don't have one and to find other books you'll love too.

Tips for reading together

Get on the same page

- Find a quiet place. Turn off mobile phones and TVs to limit distractions for both of you.
- Before you open the book, look at the front and back covers together. Ask your child about what they see and what they think the story might be about.

For happily ever after

- You can read together at any time of day, but bedtime is a perfect opportunity.
- If you've started a book but you aren't enjoying it together, try a different book.

Make it fun and easy

- Once you've opened the book, read the words but talk about the pictures too. There are often lots of details in the pictures which your child will find interesting and fun.
- You can read to your child, they can read to you or you can take turns reading a page or paragraph each. Remember, even if your child can read themselves, it's still a great idea to read to them. Reading aloud is very important for building foundational skills at all levels and helps children foster a love of books and reading.
- Ask your child questions while you are reading, like why they think something is happening in the story or how they feel about the story.
- If your child is reading to you, help them with words they're not sure about. Encourage them to sound out the word or work it out based on the other words in the sentence and what is happening in the story. If they don't know the word, explain what it means.
- It's OK to read the same book again and again too!

For more ideas on books you and your child might enjoy, visit [scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists](https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists)

The
**Bug
Collector**



Alex G Griffiths

George loves bugs. Big ones, leggy ones, ones that glow. So he decides to become the world's best bug collector!

Stargazing

There are lots of stars in the book – which page has the most stars and which has the least?



Fact or fiction?

Use two bug facts from the book and make up a third one to share with someone at home. Can they guess which facts are true and which is false?

Can you watch some David Attenborough TV clips with an adult in your home and try and record your own animal clip with a voiceover? Tweet them to us at @readwritecount!

Counting bugs

Using your magnifying glass, pencil and notebook, have a look outside for minibeasts and make a tally chart of how many legs each has!

Waggle dance

Bees do a waggle dance – can you find a video of it online and copy it? Can you and your family try it to different music?



Nighttime wanderers

In the book there are some nocturnal bugs. Use the internet or your local library to find out some facts about nocturnal animals that live near you.

3¹²

Weekly planner

Sunday is George's favourite day of the week. What's your favourite day and why? Use the week chart in your notebook to talk about and note down what you do differently on each day of the week.



Making faces

George's feelings change throughout the book. Can you look closely at his facial expressions together and act or talk out his emotions for each part?

**3¹²**

Pattern drawing

There's lots of symmetry in the patterns on the bugs, especially butterflies. Draw a symmetrical pattern on the butterflies wings in your notebook. Talk together about where else you see symmetry in the world.



Building design

George's treehouse is magnificent. Can you design your own treehouse in your notebook then label the things you would have inside? Ask your family members what they would have inside their treehouse.



Try this when you need to stay indoors on a rainy day.



The best!

George thinks watching bugs is the 'best thing in the world!' What do you think is the best thing in the world? Ask your family too and then use your Talk it Out cards to carry on chatting.



SARAH COYLE

THE

DAN TAYLOR

BIGGEST STORY



Errol's mum is too busy to tell him a story. So he has to make up his own, which begins to grow and grow... until it's the BIGGEST story ever!

Introductions

Have a look at the front cover and discuss it together. Can you guess what the story might be about? Are there clues which could help you? Do you know the names of the animals on the front cover? Do you think any other animals will make an appearance? Introduce the animals as they appear in the story.

Try this as part of your bedtime routine to keep your child entertained.

Tally up!

Look back through the book together and use tally marks to count how many different animals there are. Can you name each animal? Discuss what you know about each of the animals you count.



Who said that?

Look through the book together and come up with voices for the animals. Have fun reading through the story together using their different voices!

Sorting sizes

Can you sort all the animals in the book in size order, from largest to smallest? Can you think of other ways to sort them? E.g. how many legs? Who is the tallest and smallest in your family, and can you sort everyone in order?

3¹/₂ Follow the trail

Use your magnifying glass to follow the ant trail through the book. Can you make an ant trail pattern in your notebook using shapes, and describe the directions it takes?



3¹/₂ Who is fastest?

Errol tries to shake a story out of himself with exercises. Estimate how many jumps you think you can do in one minute then use a timer to find out. What else could you do in one minute? Who can do the most in your house?

Comic fun

When Errol tells his story it is shown like a comic. Talk together about comics that you have read or know about. You could compare favourite comics and characters with others then use the comic strip pages in your notebook to make your own story! Try and include characters based on your family, friends or favourite books.



New hero

The sheep saves the day in Errol's story. Can you imagine if a different animal had saved the day? How would they do it?



Story bag

Use your Read, Write, Count bag to collect a few items from around your house. Try using these items as the basis for your own story! You could take it in turns to take an object out of the bag and create a story together and even act it out.

What happens next?

At the end of the story, Errol is in the bath and is inspired to start a story set in the sea! Can you finish Errol's story? Can you think of any other good ideas to start a story of your own?

Try again!

Errol finds it difficult to make up a story but he gets better the more he tries. What have you found difficult that you have tried again and accomplished?

50 Word Fiction Competition



Errol tells the BIGGEST story! Could you try the smallest story and enter a 50 Word Fiction competition?

Visit: scottishbooktrust.com/50words

A LITTLE WRITING CAN SPELL A LITTLE CALM



Children love to get their pencils out and write or draw, showing off what their imaginations can do. And it's easy to combine writing with everyday activities, keeping your child's mind busy and having lots of fun together too. Use the notebook inside the bag for lots of ideas!

Bookmark/ magnifying glass



Beastie spotting

The magnifying glass can be used to find lots of beasties and creatures in the garden or the park! Use the ruler to measure them and keep a record of what you find in your notebook.



Letter spotting

Use your magnifying glass to look for groups of letters within your books. These could be spelling patterns that you have been learning in school.

Tip: Using the magnifying glass around your home to find lots of small details you might not have seen before!

Combine the magnifying glass with a phone camera to take a close-up picture and have your family guess what it is! Tweet your pictures to @readwritecount



Nature survey

Take a photo of 'nature' – perhaps a small patch of grass or mud – and then another using your magnifying glass too. Create a beastie survey of all the creatures you can spot in your pictures!

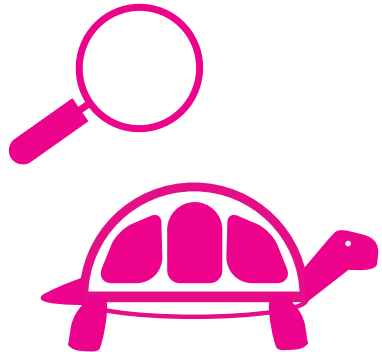


1/2 What can you see?

Do a scavenger hunt of things that you can only see under a magnifying glass – try to notice the small details, such as veins on leaves, lines or spirals on a shell or the spots on a ladybird. You could also copy these patterns into your notebook. Show your family what you found!

1/2 Play detective

Make finger prints in your notebook and then using your magnifying glass, take a look and compare them with other people at home. Can you spot any differences?

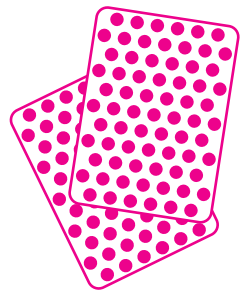


1/2 Look closely

Find different shapes within small objects e.g. orange peel pattern, tortoise shell, patterns in nature. Can you draw the patterns in your notebook?

1/2 Shape shuffle

Use the ruler to practise drawing different shapes. Can you draw any other shapes that aren't on the Shape Shuffle cards in the bag? What other shapes do you know?



1/2 Measure up!

Have some fun measuring things in your home with your family! Who can find an object closest to 10cm long? Compare the different lengths together.

NUMBER GAMES

YOU CAN ALWAYS
COUNT ON



There are lots of fun number games you can try in everyday activities with your child to spend some time together. The following ideas, tips and activities can add up to big smiles!



Shape Shuffle

Play the shape shuffle card game by dealing the cards out between the players and then putting one card each at a time face up onto the pile in the middle. You can only use a card if the shape or number matches the card at the top of the pile – for example, if the card has 5 squares you could play another 5 card or another square card next. You can use wildcards at any time. If you can't play, take a card from the pile. Whoever uses all of their cards first wins!

3¹² Matching sides

Can you find the cards where the number in the corner is the same as the number of sides that the shape has? Do you know the names of any other shapes? How many sides do they have?

3¹² Shuffle timer

Shuffle the cards together and then sort them into shapes, put the numbers in order as fast as you can. Take turns to time each other and see if you can finish faster next time. Who is the fastest?

3¹² Highest number

Deal each player two number cards and the player with the highest number when they add them together wins one point. Who will be the first to get to 5 points? You can track the points in your notebook.

))) ? Which shape?

Turn over one number card and see who can name the shape first. Practise drawing the shapes together in your notebook, taking it in turns to find something around you that has the same shape on it.

Snap!

Play snap with the cards, matching two cards with the same number.

Count around

Shuffle the number cards together, and turn over the top one. What is in the room that matches with the number? For example, if there are three people in the room and you turn over a number 3, you could say number of people in the room.

Count down

Each player starts with 20 points, then pick up a card and take it away from 20. The first to reach 0 or less than 0 wins.



Learn the shape shuffle dance! Make up your own version.

Act it out



Charades!

Take turns to pick a card and act it out for a family member to guess without making any noise. You can use gestures, point to things in the room and mimic the object.

What's that noise?

Find the animal and music cards from the pack and then take it in turns to pick one and mimic the sound it makes for a family member to guess.

3¹² Listen carefully

Take turns to pick a card and describe the object for a family member to guess. Make sure you don't use the word itself e.g. for tennis you could say a sport played with a ball, a net and two rackets. To make it harder, check the number on the other side of the card – this is the number of words you are allowed to use to describe it.

Picture this

Take turns to pick a card and draw a picture of it in your notebook for a family member to guess. To make it even more difficult you could play in teams with someone from each team drawing the same thing – the first team to guess the right answer wins!

Category is...

The cards can be split into five categories – sport, nature, music, animals and random. Work together to make up an action for each category so that you can use it when you are playing charades to help your family members guess.



Talk together

Take turns to pick a card at random and talk about it – where would you find it, have you ever seen this object, how would you describe it in three words?

Bingo!

Try to spot things from the charade cards when you are out and about together, then draw a picture of it in your notebook. How long does it take you to fill up the grid?

Create a card

Create your own charade card in your notebook and act it out or describe it for your family to guess.



Talk it out

Sometimes it can be hard to get your child to tell you what they're thinking and feeling. These questions are designed to help encourage them to chat with you and share what's on their minds.

The cards give you the opportunity to chat about new things and listen to each other's ideas and opinions.

Choose a card and let it spark a conversation between you. Do this at any time that suits you – dinner time, before bed or even on the way home from school.



Start a conversation

Talk about one of the cards together. Use the conversation as inspiration for a drawing or piece of writing in your notebook – for example, after talking about what makes you laugh, write some jokes or a funny story.



Research!

Conversations you have may lead on to more opportunities to learn together – for example, if you have been talking about time travel you could visit the library together and find out what life was like in the past.



New characters

Create a character together and draw them in your notebook. Take turns using your 'Talk it out' cards to interview each other, answering as the new character.

Where can I find out more or get some help?

If you'd like more information about getting involved in your child's learning, try visiting these websites:

parentclub.scot

The Parent Club website is full of lots of videos, tips and ideas for activities to do with your children. If your child is in Gaelic Medium Education, there is information to help you and you'll also find links to other useful websites. If you need any help with your reading, writing or counting, visit The Big Plus website (**thebigplus.com**).

scottishbooktrust.com

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity with a mission to ensure people living in Scotland have equal access to books. Everyone should have the opportunity to improve their life chances through books and the fundamental skills of reading and writing. Visit Scottish Book Trust's website for book recommendations, fun activities you can do at home, author events and more.

education.gov.scot/parentzone

Parentzone is a website for parents and carers from early years to beyond school. It provides information about learning in Scotland and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home. There is also information for families with additional support needs, how to get involved with your child's school and about the schools in your local area.

playtalkread.scot

The PlayTalkRead website gives lot of ideas for activities you can do with younger children.

With the right support, all children can get the most from school

As a parent or carer, it's reassuring to know that, if your child needs help with their learning and to get the most from school, support will be available.

Wondering if your child has additional support needs?

Here's some important information to help you consider whether your child has additional support needs:

- A child is said to have 'additional support needs' if, for any reason, they need more, or different support to what is normally provided in schools or nurseries to children of the same age.
- Your child does not need to have a diagnosed condition to be entitled to additional support with their learning.
- Your child may need additional support at any time during their education. They may need it for a short period of time or all the way through nursery and school.

Whatever your child's needs and whenever they arise, everyone involved should try to identify them as early as possible and provide them with the support they need. If you feel your child needs extra help with their learning, speak to their class teacher about your concerns.

You can find lots more information about additional support for learning on the Enquire website, or by contacting their helpline.



0345 123 2303

www.enquire.org.uk

Enquire's website for older children and teens

www.reach.scot



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