



Dechrau Da
Bookstart
BookTrust Cymru



BookTrust Cymru Early Years Practitioner Conference

Equality, diversity and reading for
pleasure in the Early Years

booktrust.org.uk/cymru



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



BookTrust Cymru
Getting children reading Ysgogi plant i ddarllen

About BookTrust

We're the UK's largest children's reading charity

We want all families to establish a routine of reading together with their babies as early as possible and to continue this throughout childhood as children learn to read independently.

Reading matters because it can have a lifelong positive impact on a child, affecting their health and wellbeing, creativity and educational outcomes.

Children who read for pleasure are likely to do better at school, as well as be more socially, culturally and emotionally prepared for life. Sharing books, stories and rhymes early on in childhood can support children's language, communication and literacy development.

Our Bookstart Dechrau Da programmes for babies and toddlers encourage parents and carers to play an active role in their children's reading and learning.

Reading in the early years has a vital role to play in well-being. It can help build relationships and support parent/carer-child bonding, build confidence and provide fun and memorable experiences.

Bookstart contributes to the Welsh Government well-being objectives, including creating conditions to give every child the best start in life, improving education outcomes for all, and creating the right conditions for children to learn and use the Welsh language.

Through Bookstart Dechrau Da, we give approximately 130,000 books to 65,000 families in Wales every year.



Contact us

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Cover illustration: © Diane Ewen



Why reading matters

The powerful and transformative benefits of reading

From babies to those in their early years and all the way through to early teens, reading brings children profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on their lives, affecting their health, wellbeing, sleep and their academic and social development.

Improving a child's mental health, wellbeing and self-esteem, and helping families bond



- Longer sleep at night for children in their early years
- Warmth, sensitivity and less stress for parents of babies
- Better mental wellbeing, ability to overcome stress and a boost to self-esteem
- Enhanced sense of security, improved emotional regulation and opportunities to exchange ideas by sharing interactions over a book

Creating new opportunities and developing aspiration and possibilities for children



- Helps overcome educational barriers and drive social mobility
- More likely to be in professional or managerial roles in their thirties
- Less likely still to be in poverty as an adult

Sparking imagination and creativity



- Develops curiosity and broadens horizons
- Builds imagination, reflection, problem-solving and critical thinking
- Cultivates an awareness of the perspectives of other people and increases empathy

Many people don't know about these benefits. With millions of children across the UK facing disadvantage and inequalities in their lives, there is an urgent need for us, our partners and professionals who support children and families to advocate for the role of reading in a child's life so a new generation of children can enjoy these life-changing benefits.

Find out more about our work at booktrust.org.uk/cymru

How we deliver change for children and families

Achieving our aim of getting every child reading regularly and by choice means supporting families to adopt or change behaviours that enable them to create and cultivate a reading habit.

The key ingredients to forming lifelong reading habits:

Give children a choice of books to increase their motivation

- Start early and provide ongoing support to help build longstanding habits
- Provide age appropriate books, tools and resources
- Curate and recommend diverse and inclusive books so children can see themselves in the books they read
- Support families to engage their children in reading
- Provide access to high quality and diverse books
- Encourage a safe and secure environment for reading

Inspiring a new generation of children on their reading journeys

We're excited to build on our knowledge, insight and experience; to develop innovative new approaches; to deepen our relationship with partners; and to transform our support for children and families, helping them form long-lasting habits and behaviours.

We'll do this by delivering on five areas where we know we can make a difference:

1. Starting together so all families are supported to initiate shared reading at the earliest opportunity
2. Supporting disadvantaged children and families in their early years who need more help to get started on their reading journeys and make reading a regular part of their lives
3. Encouraging children and families to continue on their reading journeys even when change or new experiences can make this a challenge
4. Overcoming barriers so children from vulnerable family backgrounds can enjoy the benefits of reading despite the challenges they face
5. Building a community of champions who understand, advocate for and promote the benefits of reading



Why is equality and diversity in reading for pleasure important to us?

This year's conference theme has particular relevance given the recent important commitments Welsh Government has made through the introduction of the Race Equality Action Plan: An Anti Racist Wales and curriculum developments where learning areas will need to reflect the diverse experiences and contributions of communities and individuals to both past and present Wales.

When we talk about diversity, we are championing the need for inclusion in all areas, so that all children and families are represented and valued.

We know that learning about the world, your identity and those around you starts in the Early Years, and that books, stories and rhymes are powerful tools that can be used to help children understand their lived experiences.

More can be done to ensure that all children can access books, and that they can see themselves, their lives and the lives of others represented in those books, from an early age.

Through this conference we are bringing together a range of voices from children's authors and illustrators, practitioners, early years organisations and people working in the world of children's books, to explore why equality and diversity and inclusion is vital in reading for pleasure and what we can do in the Early Years to give young children the opportunity to feel represented and empowered.



Contributors



Dapo Adeola is a children's author and illustrator and the co-creator of science-mad chatterbox Rocket from the bestselling picture book *Look Up!* with Nathan Bryon, and illustrator of *We're Going To Find The Monster* written by Malorie Blackman. He creates vivid and striking children's book characters and images that prompt and challenge readers' expectations around race and gender in a fun and upbeat way. Dapo is BookTrust's most recent Writer in Residence and through this role he has been exploring illustration as a form of storytelling: who gets to tell stories, as well as the importance of championing and developing the diverse voices and talents within illustration and storytelling. As well as running workshops for children, he has risen to prominence in recent years for using his platform and experience to champion and promote careers in illustration to under-represented groups in the creative arts and publishing industries. You can find Dapo on Twitter [@DapsDraws](#)



Connor Allen is an award winning multi-disciplinary artist from Newport and is the newly appointed Children's Laureate of Wales and associate artist of The Riverfront Theatre. His work is heavily inspired by elements of his own life such as grief, love, masculinity, identity, and ethnicity. You can find Connor on Twitter [@Connor_Allen92](#)



Jo Bowers has worked in primary education for over 30 years, as a primary school teacher and literacy leader in schools, as a literacy consultant and as a lecturer for literacy in primary education. She is currently the reviews editor and book reviewer for Just Imagine and works with Books Council Wales championing books set in Wales by authors and illustrators living in Wales, through the Tir na n-Og book awards and Quick Reads in Wales. She co-leads an Open University Reading for Pleasure Teacher as Readers Group (TRG) for teachers in Wales and is a Wales representative for the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA). She is passionate about children's literature and is happiest when she is reading and surrounded by books. You can find Jo on Twitter at [@Jo_Bowers](#)



Margaret Holt is Bookstart Coordinator for Cardiff Libraries. She took up the post in 2006 and over the years, has worked closely with a wide range of organisations in the city, particularly those working with more vulnerable families – Flying Start, Welsh Refugee Council, Additional Needs groups, Cardiff Prison. She particularly enjoys delivering Bookstart rhyme times along with her guitar and recently shared a session with Afghan refugees. You can find Margaret on Twitter [@cdflibraries](#)



Natalie Jerome has worked as a Publisher and Acquiring Editor for some of the UK's most prominent publishing houses including Penguin Random House, Pan Macmillan, Bonnier Books and HarperCollins where she was a commissioner for ten years before making the move across to literary agenting. One of the few black Publishers in the UK, Natalie has worked to improve diversity within the industry. She is Deputy Chair of Literature Wales and is a founding trustee and board member for Creative Access, a mentoring and graduate trainee scheme for black and minority ethnic candidates looking for paid internships across the media sector. You can find Natalie on Twitter [@Natalie350](#)



Ruth Morgan has been a primary school teacher for over thirty years. The development of literacy and promotion of reading for pleasure has always been one of her biggest interests. She currently works part-time as ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator) at Cogan Primary School and is also a freelance writer. She writes books for children under her own name, including 'Ant Clancy Games Detective' (Firefly Press), an adventure story with a gaming theme which many teachers have used to support the teaching of digital competency, with its safer gaming messages. She also writes stories for national magazines 'Yours' and 'The People's Friend' under the pen-name Becca Robin. You can find Ruth on Twitter [@alienruth](#)



Lucy Owen is a journalist and presenter working for BBC Wales. She's been broadcasting in Wales for more than 25 years. She fronts the flagship evening news programme *Wales Today* and the consumer programme *X-ray*. She has written 3 children's books. Profits from her first picture book *Boo-a-bog in the Park* go to The Noah's Ark Charity, raising money for The Children's Hospital for Wales. *The Sea House* was published by Firefly Press in 2018, *Flower Girl* was published by Atebol in 2021, and her new picture book *How Do I Know You Love Me?* is released in March 2022. Lucy is involved with a number of charities including Ty Hafan children's hospice, Cerebral Palsy Cymru, Prime Cymru and The Prince's Trust Cymru. You can find Lucy on Twitter [@lucyowenwales](#)



Cymraeg for Kids is one of Mudiad Meithrin's primary schemes with a focus on increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers amongst nursery-age children. They are passionate about giving each child the opportunity to play, learn and grow in Welsh. <https://gov.wales/cymraeg-for-kids>



Books Council of Wales is a national charity who support the publishing industry in Wales and promote reading for pleasure. They do this by ensuring a steady flow of publications and by organising a series of special activities celebrating reading, working with a wide range of partners in the field. Books Council also provide specialist services to publishers in the areas of editing, design, marketing and distribution to ensure high standards of production and publication of material in Welsh or English relating to Wales. <https://llyfrau.cymru>

Inspiration and insight – why diversity matters in books for children in the early years

BookTrust aims to engage, support and inspire those who work with young children and their families to harness the power of shared reading in a way that recognises the importance and value of diverse and inclusive books and stories.

Our conference contributors each have unique and important perspectives on the value of making sure that all children can see themselves represented in the books they read, and the important role books can play in supporting children to empathise with those who have different experiences to them.



You Can't Be What You Don't See

Dapo Adeola

Growing up, I lived in a household where reading for pleasure was unheard of. My early experiences of reading was having it forced on me so as not to be an illiterate embarrassment to my guardian. While my reading ability didn't improve, I got really good at playing "hide the outdated Children's book".

It wasn't until I was 7 years old that my new teacher sat me down in front of a book shelf and said "pick what YOU want to read" that everything changed for me.

I lacked the words to sum it up at the time, but I'll never forget the feeling, it was like being given the keys to a magic vehicle that could take you literally anywhere and any time imaginable.

I immediately set about devouring all the books I could get my hands on, I took in everything from Roald Dahl and C.S Lewis to Terry Pratchett and Brian Jacques. It turned out I was perfectly capable of reading (even a tad advanced for my age), I just needed to be given the freedom to choose what I wanted to read. I became an avid reader, the books I consumed not only helped develop my imagination and curiosity, they also allowed me to escape my reality and provided me with relief and hope for a better existence than the childhood I was experiencing. I didn't know it back then, but reading actually saved my life.



This is where my love of storytelling stems from. But even though these stories gave me comfort, I still wasn't able to make that important connection you can only make when seeing "yourself" represented in the books you're reading. It wasn't until I saw this both on and off the page that I not only felt represented, but I was also able to see a potential future where I too could one day be a storyteller. Now a huge part of my journey is focused on making sure this is the same for the younger generation coming up. You can't be what you don't see.

Empathy and Empowerment

Connor Allen

Harry Potter was and still is my favourite book series. This teenage boy who is different and doesn't quite know why he's different and why he doesn't fit in in the world he lives. It spoke to me in a way other books didn't. I know I'm not a wizard (although I belong to Ravenclaw) but the world I could escape to in the pages I read made a lot of growing up more bearable. And there are so many stories from a plethora of authors and artists that will make other people's experiences feel heard and in turn their lives more bearable.

Stories and art are reflections of life. All lives are different and we need to see that difference in the pages we read and on stages and screens. In a recent workshop someone said a brilliant quote to me "if you don't see yourself then you start to think you don't exist" and that is why representation is so crucial and matters so much because it helps you believe and understand that you DO exist and you DO belong.

By expanding access to reading you're giving families and young people the opportunity to enrich their minds by going to different worlds with a myriad of different characters. The imagination is one of - if not the biggest creative tool we possess and reading only enhances that.

If you walk a mile in someone else's shoes you have a bigger capacity for empathy. If you can empathise with someone then you can get closer to their story and ultimately closer to the human condition.

There's a sense of universality in that. A sense we aren't alone in the world. And that is one of the most beautiful and most powerful things we can discover. There's a similarity in how we feel as human beings and we aren't alone in feeling and thinking those things.



Reading allows me to feel that. Allows me to see the world through their eyes in some capacity.

This is what ultimately drives my creativity and artistic freedom - Empathy. Allowing audiences and readers the chance to gain a sense of understanding (if possible) about the world and about themselves.

As Children's Laureate my aims are clear. Empowerment is (in my opinion) the greatest creative tool we can ever give a child and young person. If we show them a door with all their potential and all their possibilities behind and we open that door and say "that right there is you - everything you can be and do is behind this door - The greatest version of you is right there" then we are unlocking that potential and allowing them to see what and who they can become. I aim to empower the young people of Wales through poetry, conversation and creative expression so they can all unlock their doors.

CHILDREN'S
LAUREATE
WALES.

l.l.l. Llenyddiaeth
Cymru
Literature
Wales

Supporting Reading for Pleasure in Early Years Settings

Jo Bowers

Books are important from an early age, not only to help children develop the skills they need to be able to access and participate in many aspects of daily life but also for them to find pleasure and enjoyment in reading.

This engagement with books not only makes children better readers but research has shown that it also impacts on their wider educational attainment, equips them with a wider vocabulary, supports their personal, social and emotional needs as an individual reader, builds connections and develops empathy.

Books enable young children to see the world from different perspectives, 'regardless of theme or subject matter, characters, events and situations in narrative texts act as metaphorical 'mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors' (Bishop, 1990), and so provide a key role in informing about the world around them.

As practitioners in early years settings, we can actively encourage children's love of books with equality of access for all by:

- Offering a wide range of rich diverse and inclusive books representing the world they live in, that show positive representation, across all genres of children's literature including fiction, poetry and non-fiction, offering different voices, stories and perspectives. 'We want readers to encounter characters with agency, who are identifiable, relatable, nuanced, varied and central to the narrative' (Centre For Literacy In Primary Education, 2021);
- Taking time to find out what books children are interested in and find books that will excite them;
- Having an inviting, comfortable and attractive reading space within the setting with a wide range of books that are regularly updated;



- Ensuring there is a strong reading pedagogy within their settings with social reading environments, regular time for reading aloud, informal talking about books and time for independent reading and choosing books (Cremin et al., 2014);
- Developing our own knowledge of children's literature and other texts and becoming regular readers of children's texts (Cremin et al., 2014);
- Developing interactive reading communities that include parents and the local community (Cremin et al., 2014);
- Sending books home with children that include books which reflect their culture and language wherever possible to ensure that children see themselves within books and stories they read and are able to connect with their culture through books, both fiction and non-fiction. Where the child's first language is not English include books in their home language and books without words so children can share them with family in their own language.

Promoting an equality of access to reading for pleasure at an early age and a commitment to nurturing and encouraging a love of reading within early years settings will support and develop children's desire to read and become lifelong readers.

The Life Changing Power of Books and Reading

Natalie Jerome

Books and the love of reading have changed my life. People say that kind of thing a lot but in my case, I really believe it to be true.

Who am I? Some people call me 'black Matilda' but for the avoidance of doubt I'm not able to move objects with my mind.

I'm a reader, a big reader and I've spent most of my adult working life, the last 25 years, helping people tell their stories. Inspiring children on their reading journeys is something I'm passionate about. I believe that the right support and the right book can help even the most reluctant reader to experience the transformative power of reading and I've spent my career getting great books into the hands of readers.

I've not had a job outside of books since I was 20. I started work as a bookseller in my last term at Sussex University where I studied English and landed my first publishing job as an Editorial Assistant at Penguin RandomHouse, the biggest Publisher in the world a month after my 22nd birthday. From there I worked my way up to Publisher across three of the top 5 global publishing houses, commissioned and edited books by a number of high-profile stars before moving across to literary agenting two years ago. In my first 12 months as an agent, I was shortlisted as Literary Agent of the year at the 2021 British Book Awards which I achieved based from my home town of Newport in South Wales. I now work at Curtis Brown, one of the biggest and oldest literary agencies where I represent amongst others, Sir Lenny Henry and the actor David Harewood and I am Deputy Chair of Literature Wales.

I've mentioned all of my career achievements for a reason and it's because when I read them back even I'm surprised by all the things listed here.

Statistically the odds on someone from my background – black, Welsh, working class, raised by a single parent Mum on benefits and receiving free school meals – achieving in the elite literary world are slim. As a result,

I am a true believer in the power of books and reading and will always credit them for completely transforming my life and my chances in the world.

I recently gave a talk to school children in celebration of National Libraries Week in Wales and my daughter gave me some excellent advice (she's 6 and very engaged with Mummy's line of work!) in preparation. We read picture books every night and as we discussed my upcoming talk, she suggested that the children might like to know how reading makes me feel. I was suddenly back to Newport library age 7 or 8 with Mum on a Saturday, rushing in ahead of her to the children's section hunting for my next new fabulous story.

I knew from a young age that I was a good reader. It was my superpower and those Saturdays in the library helped to unleash my potential! I felt happy, confident and proud reading. I was praised for it and also for writing well both at home and at school. Because of this I no longer cared so much that I was the only black girl in my class at school or that my family didn't look like other families and that we didn't have as much money. Little did I know the feelings I got from books as a child would stay with me forever. How important for a little black girl from Newport.

I can't recommend books and reading enough nor the importance of seeing all children in them. I will always champion them, at every age but especially so for early readers who are just beginning their journey into the world. Books are powerful and change lives. They certainly changed mine.



We are a Small Welsh Primary School Trying to do Something BIG

Ruth Morgan

The Cogan Primary Picture Book Award is in its third year. It is a home-grown initiative where all the children in the school judge recently published picture books and ultimately, arrive at a winner. There is a different theme each year to keep the experience fresh for the children and it all began with the 'Cogan Diversity Picture Book Award 2019'.

Why did we choose 'diversity' as our first theme? Back in 2018, Michelle Owen our English Co-ordinator and I had already had several conversations bemoaning the fact that some of our children never had the opportunity to see characters who looked like them, in the books being published. We then discovered the inaugural 'Reflecting Realities' Centre for Literacy in Primary Education report, which found that only 4% of children's books published in 2017 featured a minority ethnic character.

Similarly, we felt that characters with disabilities were underrepresented in children's literature. Where these books did exist, we noticed how sometimes the character with the disability might have to be 'saved' from some predicament by others: hardly a positive representation. Also, we have lots of different kinds of families at our school but couldn't see this reflected in children's literature either.

Everything came together with the development of our 'Llais' curriculum, designed to encourage pupil voice. Children could choose to be part of different Llais interest groups and I was asked to lead the 'diversity' themed group. Adding together Michelle and my discussions, plus the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education research, plus the fact that we put a premium on the importance of reading at Cogan Primary, we wondered whether it would be possible for us to run our own book award. We sought advice and received particular help and encouragement from Literature Wales.



If we were going to do this, we wanted to make sure it was done as professionally as possible with Terms and Conditions thought through. Soon we started developing a template which is still in place and works for us.

We decided our theme would describe 'diversity' in its widest sense, focussing on recently published fiction, non-fiction and poetry which demonstrated a positive portrayal of underrepresented groups. Our call for submissions asked for books featuring minority ethnic characters, characters with disabilities and different kinds of families. We were delighted when authors, illustrators and publishers began responding most enthusiastically, sending us their books.

From the beginning, our children loved the idea of being judges. They understood that what they were doing was important not just to our school but had a wider impact because suddenly we were in contact with creators of the books themselves and making our voices heard. The award has given us ample opportunity to model positive and respectful interactions with authors, illustrators and publishers on social media.

Our first ever tweet said, 'We are a small South Wales primary school trying to do something BIG.' We're proud to have used our school's voice to help address such an important issue and we continue to benefit from and add to the diverse books in use in our classrooms every day.

Committing to Equality and Diversity in Nursery Education

Cymraeg for Kids

Cymraeg for Kids is pleased to support this year's Bookstart Early Years Conference, which will focus on equality and diversity and reading for pleasure in the early years.

As one of Mudiad Meithrin's primary schemes with a focus on increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers amongst nursery-age children, we are passionate about giving each child the opportunity to play, learn and grow in Welsh. Diversity, equality and inclusion are integral parts of our work when connecting with and supporting families as they engage with the Welsh language and learn more about the childcare and educational options available to them in Welsh. Mudiad Meithrin has over 1000 early years provisions throughout Wales -from Cymraeg for Kids groups, Ti a Fi groups, Cylchoedd Meithrin and day nurseries.

Our team of Cymraeg for Kids officers work closely with local health teams and early years partners to refer new parents to our baby yoga and baby massage sessions, our Song Story and Sign sessions, as well as our online courses. These groups are a means of supporting families and sharing information about other support and opportunities we provide. We are proud of our work with minority ethnic families, with specific groups already established in Cardiff and Newport, and we offer a warm welcome to all families joining our weekly groups throughout Wales.

Recently, Mudiad Meithrin has developed a number of resources which support different aspects of education on equality and diversity, for example Cylch i Bawb, Come and Celebrate, Nature Notes and Cwm Perthyn. Cwm Perthyn was developed by The North Wales Regional Equality Network on behalf of Mudiad Meithrin. A new black Welsh history resource is in development, showing our commitment to equality and diversity within nursery education.



Supporting authors and publishers

Books Council of Wales

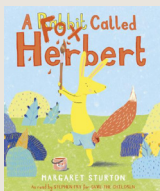
Our main objectives at the Books Council of Wales are to support the publishing industry in Wales and promote reading for pleasure.

We do this not only through ensuring a constant flow of quality publications but also through organising a variety of events celebrating reading and working closely with a wide range of partners. One example of this is working with Literature Wales offering courses for emerging authors, including the upcoming course on creating diverse stories for children and young people for authors from diverse and currently underrepresented backgrounds.

Ensuring that Wales in all its diversity is represented in the books sponsored by the Council has been a key priority for the last 18 months and the future. We have held many training sessions and discussions internally and with external partners, and we also conducted an internal review of the books for adults we sponsored, and a similar survey of children's books is currently underway. We define diversity to mean those characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010: race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, age, pregnancy and maternity.



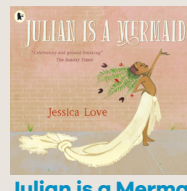
Books we love that can be used to explore diversity and inclusion with young children



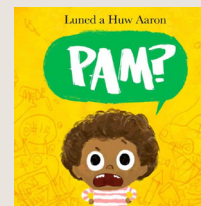
A Fox called Herbert
Margaret Sturton
Andersen Press Ltd
English



Billy and the Dragon
Nadia Shireen
Puffin / English



Julian is a Mermaid
Jessica Love
Walker Books / English



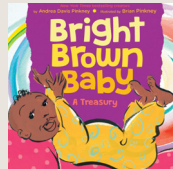
Pam?
Luned Aaron
Illustrated by
Huw Aaron
Y Lolfa / Welsh



The Mega Magic Hair Swap!
Rochelle Humes
Illustrated by
Rachel Suzanne
Studio Press / English



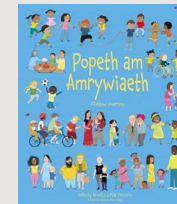
All the Ways to be Smart
Davina Bell
Illustrated by
Allison Colpoys
Scribe / English



**Bright Brown Baby
A Treasury**
Andrea Davis Pinkney
Illustrated by
Brian Pinkney
Scholastic / English



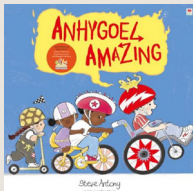
Let's Go For a Walk
Ranger Hamza
Illustrated by
Kate Kronreif
Ivy Kids / English



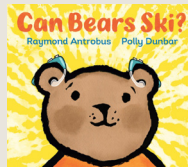
**Popeth am Amrywiaeth
/ All About Diversity**
Felicity Brooks
Illustrated by
Mar Ferrero
Adapted by
Bethan Mai Jones
Atebol / Bilingual



The Neighbourhood Surprise
Sarah Van Dongen
Tiny Owl Publishing Ltd
English



Anhygoel/ Amazing
Steve Anthony
Adapted by Elin Meek
Rily Publications Ltd
Bilingual



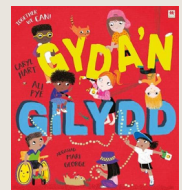
Can Bears Ski?
Raymond Antrobus
Illustrated by
Polly Dunbar
Candlewick Press (MA)
English



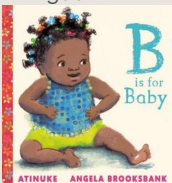
Mighty Mila
Katie Petruzzello
Illustrated by
Nadja Sarell
Mighty Books, LLC
English



See What I Can Do!
Jon Roberts
Illustrated by
Hannah Rounding
Graffeg / English



**Gyda'n Gilydd /
Together We Can**
Caryl Hart
Illustrated by
Ali Pye
Adapted by
Mari George
Rily Publications Ltd
Bilingual



B is for Baby
Atinuke
Illustrated by Angela
Brooksbank
Walker Books / English



Errol's Garden
Gillian Hibbs
Child's Play
(International) Ltd
English



My Big Fantastic Family
Adam and Charlotte
Guillain
Illustrated by Ali Pye
Nosy Crow / English



**Seren Orau'r Sêr! /
Super Duper You!**
Sophy Henn
Adapted by
Ceri Wyn Jones
Rily Publications Ltd
Bilingual



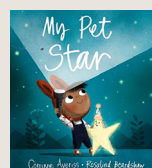
**We're Going to Find the
Monster**
Malorie Blackman
Illustrated by
Dapo Adeola
Puffin / English



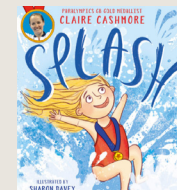
Baby Play
Skye Silver
Barefoot Books / English



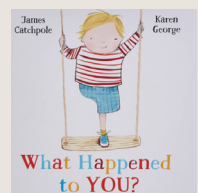
**Everybody Has a Body /
Mae gan Bawb ei Gorff
ei Hun**
Jon Burgerman
Rily Publications Ltd
Bilingual



My Pet Star
Corrinne Averiss
Illustrated by
Rosalind Beardshaw
Hachette Children's
Group / English



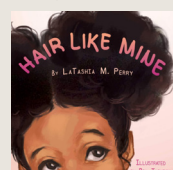
Splash
Claire Cashmore
Illustrated by
Sharon Davey
Farshore / English



What Happened to You?
James Catchpole
Illustrated by
Karen George
Faber & Faber / English



Baby's First Words
Stella Blackstone and
Sunny Scribens
Illustrated by
Christiane Engel
Barefoot Books / English



Hair Like Mine
LaTashia M. Perry
Illustrated by
Bea Jackson
G Publishing / English



**My Three Best Friends
and Me, Zuly**
Cari Best
Illustrated by Vanessa
Brantley-Newton
Farrar, Straus and
Giroux / English

Additional reading and interesting links

For magazines, organisations and online videos to keep up to date with a wide range of children's literature:

- BookTrust Cymru HomeTime
www.booktrust.org.uk/hometime-cymru
- BookTrust Bookfinder
www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder
- Books for Keeps: an online children's book magazine:
<https://booksforkeeps.co.uk>
- Pen and Inc: CILIP's guide to diversity in children's publishing:
www.cilip.org.uk/page/penandinc
- Nikki Gamble's Book Blast: a monthly selection of 40 favourite books publishing each month:
www.exploringchildrensliterature.uk
- Just Imagine curated collections for Early Years:
www.bestbooksforschools.com/collections/curriculum

For more in-depth reports and research relating to inclusion and diversity in children's literature:

- CLPE Reflecting Realities - Survey of Ethnic Representation within UK Children's Literature:
<https://clpe.org.uk/research/clpe-reflecting-realities-survey-ethnic-representation-within-uk-childrens-literature-0>
- Cremin, T., Mottram, M., Powell, S., Collins, R. and Safford, K. (2014) Building Communities of Engaged Readers: Reading for Pleasure. London and NY: Routledge.
- McGeown, S. & Wilkinson, K. (2021) Inspiring and Sustaining Reading for Pleasure in Children and Young People: A guide for teachers and school leaders. Leicester: UKLA.

For a free course to develop your knowledge and understanding of children's literature and explore in depth reading for pleasure and its significance for children's lives and development:

- Free Open Learn Course at The Open University: Developing Reading for Pleasure: engaging young readers
www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/developing-reading-pleasure-engaging-young-readers

BookTrust Cymru

Our programmes in Wales support children and families to read together and share books, stories and rhymes, and talk from an early age.

Every child in Wales can receive two special Bookstart packs before the age of three, which are given to families by their Health Visitor. Alternatively, Bookstart packs are available to collect from many libraries in Wales.



These programmes are all funded by Welsh Government. **Find out more about our work at booktrust.org.uk/cymru**



**Dechrau Da
Bookstart**
BookTrust Cymru



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



BookTrust Cymru
Inspire a love of reading Ysbrydoli cariad at ddarllen