

Sharing stories together



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

booktrust.org.uk/cymru

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Hello

Welcome to your Bookstart Early Years pack from BookTrust Cymru.

We want every child and their family to have what they need to enjoy reading together. You'll get different packs from BookTrust Cymru as your child grows, from your Bookstart baby pack up to school age.

In this pack you'll find 2 story books to share with your child. These books are a gift for them to keep.

We hope you enjoy exploring these books together. You can start by looking at the pictures – give the books to your child to hold and turn the pages.

On the next pages you'll find some tips from other parents to help you share stories and rhymes with your child.

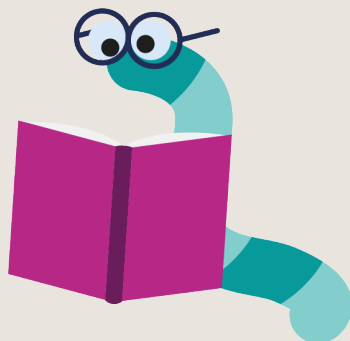
There's no wrong way to look at a book together, there's lots of ways to make reading fun for you and your child.

For activities, videos and more, check out our Early Years website:

booktrust.org.uk/myearlyyearsbaginwales

Bookstart in Wales is funded by the Welsh Government and run by BookTrust – the UK's largest reading charity.

Bookstart in Wales is delivered in partnership with libraries and health visitors.





Books to enjoy together

To find more books to enjoy with your child you'll find our pull out and keep book list in the centre pages of this booklet – you could take this along to the library where the friendly library staff can show you the children's books section and help you choose some books. You could also join in a rhyme and story time with other parents and children.

Welsh learner or Beginner?

Check out booktrust.org.uk/myearlyyearsbeginwales for audio recordings of the bilingual book in this pack.

Tips to help you enjoy books together

Ask questions when you're looking at a book together – can they say what they see on the page? What do they think will happen next?

There's no wrong way to read a book

A fun rhyme can distract and cheer up a grumpy toddler

Bedtime stories can help calm and soothe

Do what works for you – reading together doesn't have to be perfect

Don't worry if your child doesn't seem to be listening

You could use toys or music while you share a story to make it more fun



Have fun! Make animal noises or sound effects – these help bring the story to life and will make you both laugh

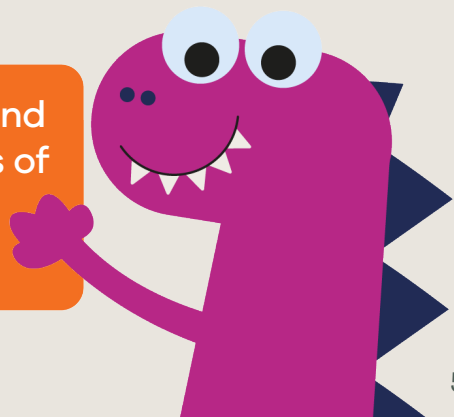
Try to find a time that works for you each day to share books, stories and rhymes

You don't have to sit still or be quiet – take books with you to the park, the shops or on the bus

If your child isn't enjoying the story, ask them to choose another book or try again another time

Other family members and friends can join in too

Every child is different and will enjoy different types of books and stories – try something new



Tips to help you and your child choose books together

You could take this list to the library or book shop or use it to help search for books online. There are books about everything, explore these questions together to help find a new book to enjoy.

What things make your child happy?

What does your child like to do?

Do they have a favourite animal?

Does your child like to join in with actions e.g. clapping, singing, rhymes?

Do they have a favourite character from a TV show or film?



Do they like books with flaps to lift or different textures?

Does your child enjoy making things?

Do they like the outdoors and nature?

Do they enjoy counting?

Does your child enjoy sports?



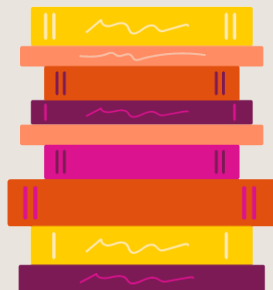
Or maybe try something new, your child will learn what they like and find their favourites.

Why reading matters

- Sharing stories, songs and rhymes with young children helps their development
- Children who read regularly are more likely to do better in school
- Sharing stories helps children understand the world around them and builds their imagination

A message from libraries in Wales

- Libraries are the perfect place to find more books to enjoy with your child
- You don't have to pay to join and you can borrow books for free
- We don't charge fees for children's books that are returned late
- Join us for a friendly rhyme time or story time session where you can meet other parents and carers and share stories and rhymes with your children
- We have books for you to enjoy too – you can join the library at any age
- Ask us for books on parenting, dealing with tantrums, sleeping, behaviour and other issues
- Libraries are child friendly places, your child doesn't have to be quiet



Find your nearest library at:
<https://libraries.wales>

Books to enjoy together

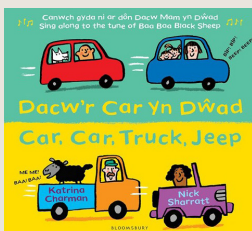
Here are some of our favourite books to share with 2-3 year olds. You can pull this list out and take it to the library or book shop with you.



Everybunny Dance

by Ellie Sandall

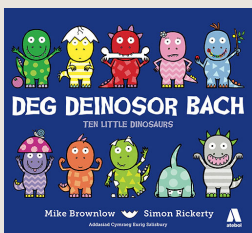
As a group of funny bunnies dance, sing, make music and have lots of fun, a cheeky fox watches them. This rhyming book is fun and has lovely illustrations.



Car Car Truck Jeep

by Katrina Sharratt & Nick Sharratt

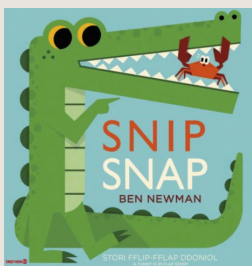
A sing-along picture book perfect for little ones who love vehicles. Bright illustrations of cars, buses, planes, trains, trucks and diggers.



Ten Little Dinosaurs

by Mike Brownlow & Simon Rickerty

Bright, colourful counting book full of mischievous dinosaurs, rhymes and silly noises to make together.



Snip Snap

by Ben Newman

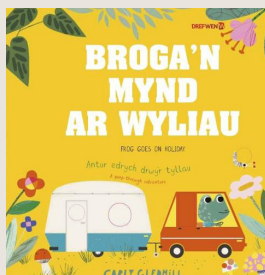
A brilliant tale about a cheeky crab and a crocodile who are up to no good – with shaped pages to turn and lots of noisy words to share.



Magic Windows: Weather

by Libby Burns

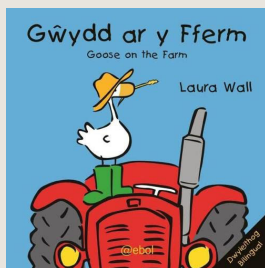
Perfect for curious toddlers who love to explore nature. An interactive book with slides to pull to make puddles, clouds and rainbows appear in the magic windows.



Frog goes on Holiday

by Carly Gledhill

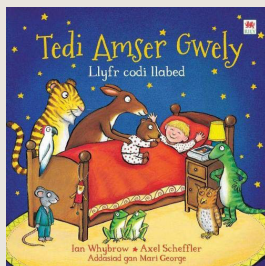
Follow Frog on his travels. With shaped pages, folds and holes to peep through. Where will Frog end up?



Goose on the farm

by Laura Wall

Goose and Sophie make new friends on the farm.



The Bedtime Bear

by Ian Whybrow & Axel Scheffler

Bear has an adventure getting back to Tom for bedtime. A lovely rhyming book with special secrets hidden on the page.