



Bookbug Call for Book Submissions 2023

Scottish Book Trust's Early Years Programme, Bookbug, is funded by the Scottish Government to provide free high-quality books and other resources for every baby, toddler and three-year old in Scotland. The aim of Bookbug is to encourage parents to read, talk, sing and cuddle with their children from birth and before. Bookbug also includes 2 books in the Scottish Government Baby Box which is gifted to expectant parents at 34 weeks gestation.

We are looking for publishers to submit high-quality board and picture books for inclusion in the Baby Box and Bookbug Bags in 2024-25:

Baby (& Baby Box): 4 board books for babies from before birth up to a year old

Please submit books on themes which new parents can relate to, and are part of a baby's world e.g. babies; bath time; bedtime; teddies; peek-a-boo. Books with mirrors and/or flaps are given priority, and black and white books.



Toddler: 3 board books/picture books for children aged 12-24 months

Please submit board books AND picture books with themes suitable for toddlers e.g. play; animals; toys; dressing, friendship.



Bookbug Explorer: 3 picture books for 3-year-olds

Please submit picture books for children aged 3 no longer than 32 pages. Some examples of themes are adventure; being outdoors; new experiences; counting; rhyme and rhythm, familiar stories retold; emotions.

General requirements and quality criteria:

- Titles must be available for delivery to Scotland at the start of December 2023 in exactly the order quantity (between 45,000 and 60,000 copies). We can not pay for any overprinting.
- Cost is decisive. While titles must meet quality standards of commercial-production, a variety of cost-saving measures can be negotiated if necessary e.g. reduction in page size; paper grade; use of grey board.
- Titles should be for the age ranges specified and represent the highest quality in publishing for young children with appealing illustrations and excellent use of language, rhythm, rhyme, or repetition.
- Inclusivity is important. Where books feature children, priority will be given to books reflecting both boys and girls, with a variety of abilities and from different ethnic backgrounds.
- Titles must meet all necessary safety requirements for these age groups.

- A condition of this order is that the publisher will work with Scottish Book Trust and their Gaelic publishing partner to negotiate a Gaelic translation of the book for inclusion in the Gaelic Bookbug Bags. The Gaelic print run of approximately 750-1,200 additional books will be added to the bulk print run of this title. These must be packed separately and marked clearly to avoid confusion.
- For selected titles, we are keen to include videos of families reading the books on our website, to increase accessibility and encourage reading together. Permission to do this represents key selection criteria.
- For selected titles, we will require a few pieces of artwork for accompanying printed items in the bags as well as for symbol resource sheets produced by CALL Scotland for children with additional needs for the books in the Explorer bags only.
- For selected titles, we will require permission for ourselves and trained Bookbug Session Leaders to use the book in online Bookbug Sessions across Scotland, which have extremely popular since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Scottish Book Trust will be unable to return any books which are submitted.
- Submitted books will be assessed by a panel of experts in early/mid May 2023. Publishers of the chosen titles will be notified in May/June 2023.
- Logos and blurb text will be sent to you for inclusion on the back of selected books.