



50 great reads

for ages 0-5



Welcome

dIrl Libraries presents an updated 50 Great Reads for Children Aged 0-5.

We believe that reading together is a rewarding and important activity. It provides an opportunity for parents and guardians to spend valuable one-on-one time with their little one and encourages a child to use their imagination from a young age. Reading at an early age helps a child to express themselves in new ways and is proven to help with cognitive development.

At dIrl Libraries, we want to help children to discover the magical world of books and along with this booklet, offer a range of library services for the young. This includes Storytime, free workshops with authors and artists, TumbleBookLibrary (an online collection of e-books for children), and much more. We are always adding to our collection and events calendar, so keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

As a library member, you have free access to over 300,000 items held in dIrl Libraries. You can borrow from any dIrl branch and can order material from all public libraries in Ireland using the shared Libraries Ireland catalogue and collect them from your local library. Can't find what you're looking for? Ask a member of staff, we're here to help.

About this Booklet

In this booklet, you'll find books that are featured in our Babies Love Books scheme and books from our recent dIrl Scéal Trails (more info on P4). Some of the books featured are old and loved enough to be called classics, and some are by exciting new writers, but they're all on this list because they are some of the most requested and read books from dIrl Libraries. We've even included some staff recommendations!

All of the books featured are available from dIrl Libraries. You can reserve any of these titles via the online catalogue or by contacting your local dIrl Libraries branch, via email or phone.

Most of the authors featured in this booklet have written other books that you can enjoy too, and some also span several age categories, so when you find a book you particularly enjoy, ask about other titles by the author.

Tips for Reading Together

- Make reading a part of your everyday routine, at bedtime, for example.
- Find books that feature topics that your child is interested in
- Allow your child to pick what book to read
- Talk about the story – explore the pictures, ask your child what they can see in the background
- Ask questions: “What do you think might happen next?”
- Use different expressions and tones of voice while reading
- Use props or toys to enrich the reading experience
- Enjoy it and Happy Reading!



Babies Love Books

dlr Babies Love Books is a book gifting scheme brought to you by dlr Libraries. Every child born in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is entitled to collect a free book bag at their local library. The scheme encourages parents and children to read together from birth. Sharing books and stories with your child has lots of wonderful benefits and it is never too early or too late to start. Look out for the Babies Love Books stickers in this booklet to see some of the books that have featured so far.



What is a Scéal Trail?

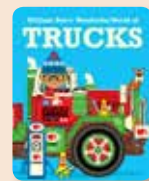
A dlr Scéal Trail is an outdoor story walk that everyone can enjoy. It's a picture book delivered in an exhibition format that you can follow, from beginning to end, as you walk with your family or friends. The aim of a Scéal Trail is to encourage reading in an outdoor setting, promote the use of books beyond the confines of library spaces and encourage engagement where parents, children, grandparents, siblings and friends can engage together with a book. Look out for the dlr Scéal Trail stickers in this booklet to see some of the books that have featured so far.



For more information on dlr Scéal Trails, please ask library staff or see our website.



Popular with Our Patrons...



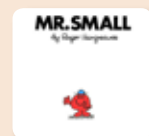
● Bee, William: William Bee's wonderful world of trucks

A perfect book for any child who is fascinated by vehicles large and small! Join William, his dog and his gang of unruly traffic cones on a grand tour of the world of trucks.



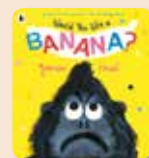
● Feeney, Tatyana: Eva and the perfect rain

Eva spends the day searching and hoping for the perfect umbrella rain that's not too windy, too thundery or too drizzly. A delightful picture book celebrating all the different types of rain in Ireland.



● Hargreaves, Roger: Mr. Small (Mr Men & Little Miss)

A popular story from the Mr. Men & Little Miss series, about the very small Mr. Small. Probably the smallest person you've ever seen in your whole life.



● Ismail, Yasmeen: Would you like a banana?

A hilarious picture book for all the family about a hungry gorilla who no matter how hungry he gets, will not be eating a banana. No way!



● Watt, Fiona: That's not my bunny!

From Usborne's touchy-feely collection, this book is designed to develop sensory and language awareness through bright pictures and different patches of texture.

Our Staff Recommendations



- **Bright, Rachel: The koala who could**

Kevin is a koala who likes to keep things the same. He does not like change. But as Kevin learns, if you step outside your comfort zone and try new things you might learn something new about yourself!



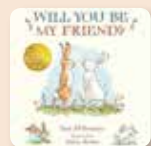
- **Carpenter, John: A chimney adventure: How Grandad, Poppy & Indy saved the chimneys**

This story follows Grandad and his two dogs, Poppy and Indy, on their quest to save the Poolbeg ESB Chimneys, in Dublin.



- **Coelho, Joseph: Luna loves library day**

From the talented poet Joseph Coelho, this charming picture book highlights the wonders of libraries for families and communities.



- **McBratney, Sam: Guess how much I love you: Will you be my friend?**

Little Nutbrown Hare wants to play so he goes off exploring on his own. He discovers another hare in a puddle – then realises it's his reflection. Then up on Cloudy Mountain he finally finds someone to play with: a little snow white hare called Tipps. And she's real!



- **Patterson, Rebecca: My big shouting day!**

Bella is having one of those days, all she can do is shout! But by the end of the day, when she's all tired out from being shouty, Bella knows there's one magic word and one magic mummy to make things better again...

Funny



- **Donaldson, Julia (ill. by Axel Scheffler): Superworm**

There's no other worm like Superworm! But who will come to Superworm's rescue, when he's captured by a wicked Wizard Lizard? Luckily, all of his insect friends have a cunning plan.



- **Freedman, Claire (ill. By Ben Cort): Pirates love underpants (Underpants)**

You may wonder why dinosaurs became extinct, well here is the answer - they were all wiped out in a mighty pants war! Join T-Rex and the rest of the gang as they slog it out to gain prehistoric pants supremacy!



- **Gravett, Emily: Matilda's cat**

Climbing trees, playing with wool - Matilda is sure her cat will love these things, but he doesn't seem very enthusiastic. Undaunted, she thinks up new ways to amuse him. What use is a pet if it doesn't want to play?



● **Hahn, Daniel (ill. by Stella Dreis): Happiness is a watermelon on your head**

Why is Miss Jolly such a merry old soul? Miss Whimper, Miss Grouch and Miss Stern are determined to find out. Is happiness to be found in daft hats or a menagerie of pets or is it simply wearing a watermelon on your head?



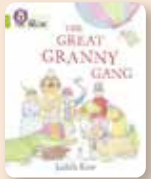
● **Haughton, Chris: Oh no, George**

Harris is off to do some shopping. "Will you be good, George?" he asks. George hopes he can. He really wants to. But chocolate cake is just so very delicious and he does love to chase cats. What will George do now?!



● **Jeffers, Oliver: What's the opposite? (The Hueys)**

The Hueys explore the concept of opposites in their characteristically quirky way. Starting out with some easy ones like 'up' and 'down', they move on to ever more wildly imaginative examples, guaranteed to raise a smile!



● **Kerr, Judith: The great granny gang**

The renowned Granny Gang, each famous for their own unique talent, comes to the aid of all those in need, so when there's a robbery at the bakery they turn their hand to crime solving. From the author of the classic *The Tiger who came to tea*.



● **Klassen, Jon: This is not my hat**

A shifty-looking little fish swims into view wearing a rather fetching turquoise hat. He's just stolen it, he tells us, but he's confident he's gotten away with it. The pictures however tell a different story.



● **Melling, David: Hugless Douglas plays hide and seek**

Hugless Douglas is so big he can never find a good enough hiding place. He and Little Sheep team up to be the best seekers ever. But what happens when someone gets a little more lost than they planned?



● **Thomas, Valerie & Paul, Korky: Winnie's dinosaur day (Winnie the Witch)**

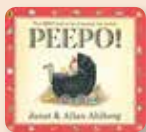
Winnie the witch and her cat Wilbur are time-travelling this time, all the way back to the age of dinosaurs. Trouble is, when they arrive back they appear to have brought a rather surprised triceratops with them. Time for one of Winnie's famous spells.



● **Willems, Mo: The Duckling gets a cookie!?**

The pigeon is back and something has really ruffled his feathers. The duckling has a cookie and he, 'the asking-est pigeon in town' has none. Simply by asking politely he might get one too.

Classic



● Ahlberg, Allan & Janet: Peepo!

A modern classic that continues to delight generations of babies and toddlers and their parents. It follows a baby through the day in a style full of wit, charm and ingenuity.



● Bemelmans, Ludwig: Madeline

'In an old house in Paris that was covered in vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines...' The small but feisty heroine, Madeline, and her charming Parisian world have been loved by children and adults alike for seventy years.



● Bruna, Dick: Miffy and the new baby

Dick Bruna's captivating illustrations make Miffy an enduring classic. In this one, Miffy has a sibling and it's a little strange - will mama bunny still love her?



● Campbell, Rod: Dear zoo

'I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet...' This classic lift-the-flap book has been a favourite with toddlers ever since it was first published.



● Carle, Eric: The very hungry caterpillar

The imaginative illustration and clever cut-out detail chart the progress of a very hungry caterpillar as he eats his way through the week, in this perennial favourite.



● Jansson, Tove: The Moomins and the great flood (Moomin Series)

Moominmamma and young Moomintroll search for the long lost Moominpappa through forest and flood, meeting various odd creatures along the way.



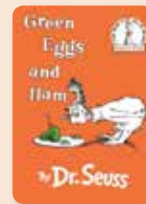
● Rosen, Michael: We're going on a bear hunt

An award-winning classic that celebrates the joys of an afternoon outdoors with a father and his four young children as they make it through various challenging situations and finally enter a narrow, gloomy cave. What will they find there?



● Sendak, Maurice: Where the wild things are

Max dons his wolf suit in pursuit of some mischief and gets sent to bed without supper. Fortunately, a forest grows in his room, allowing his wild rampage to continue unimpaired. A much-loved classic by parents and children alike!

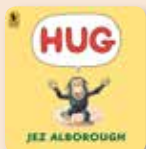


● Seuss, Dr.: Green eggs and ham

When Sam-I-Am persists in pestering a grumpy grouch to eat a plate of green eggs and ham, perseverance wins the day, teaching us all that we cannot know what we like until we have tried it!



Animals



● Alborough, Jez: Hug

Bobo, the little chimp in this book passes lots of creatures enjoying a cuddle together: but poor Bobo is alone. Will he ever find the hug he needs? Using only the single word “hug” throughout the book, this is a simple, endearing story.



● Braun, Sébastien: Meeow and the blue table

Creative cat Meeow is back and today his friends have come round to play, ready to make something amazing. Watch as they use objects from around the house and lots of imagination to create a magical castle. This fun-filled series promotes creative play, and encourages little ones to see what they can do too.



● Burningham, John: Tug of war

Hare, Hippopotamus and Elephant live together, but not happily, for Hippopotamus and Elephant are forever teasing poor Hare. One day, Hare decides to teach his friends a lesson, and so the great tug of war begins.



● Deacon, Alexis: Croc and Bird

Side by side on the sand sit two eggs. With a crack and a rip, the eggs hatch, and out comes a bird and a ... crocodile! But they can't be brothers - can they? A heartwarming tale of friendship against the odds.



● Devlin, Sadhbh: Geansaí Ottó (Maisithe ag Róisín Haheesy)

Buachaill beag luiche darb ainm Ottó ar thuras a dhéanann sé trí chosán foraoise i dtreo a sheanmháthar, ar breá léi bronntanais áille a chnótáil dó. Is fuath le hOttó na geansaithe olla lámhdhéanta seo, ámh, agus socraíonn sé go n-inseoidh sé an méid sin dá sheanmháthair agus é ar tí dul isteach sa choill.



● Uí Cheallaigh, Carmel: Spidey (Maisithe ag Fintan Taite)

Spidey! Spidey! Spidey! Tá suim an-mhór ag Séimí beag sna damháin alla. Bíonn siad le feiceáil i ngach áit, dar leis! Ba bhreá leis féin bheith ina Spidey lá éigin!



● Yates, Louise: Dog loves drawing

Dog loves books, but one day he receives a strange one in the post - it's blank! Soon, Dog realises that this book is for drawing, and before long Dog is doodling and drawing himself into a new world, full of friends and surprises.



Growing/Learning



- **Browne, Anthony: How do you feel?**

In a first book about feelings, this story will reassure young children and help them understand how they feel, using simple words and pictures.



- **Corderoy, Tracey (ill. by Sophie Allsopp): A flower in the snow**

Luna and Bear are the very best of friends. When a beautiful flower pops up in the snow, Luna is delighted! But soon the flower fades, and with it, Luna's smile. Can Bear help his friend by finding another sunshine flower?



- **Donaldson, Julia (ill. by Nick Sharratt): Goat goes to playsgroup**

This comforting story for children who are about to start, or have recently started, playschool takes us through a typical day with lots of fun activities and an accident or two!



- **Donnelly, Paddy: The vanishing lake**

A captivating tale celebrating a young girl's determination, a Grandad's wisdom, and the fantastical wonders of the natural world. This beautiful book is filled with imagination, the natural world, and the magic of storytelling.



- **Graham, Bob: A bus called Heaven**

An old bus is left outside Stella's house. With the help of friends and neighbours she sets about restoring it, and in doing so, restores their community spirit.



- **Heap, Sue & Sharratt, Nick: Alphabet ice cream**

A unique look at the alphabet and friendship in a chunky board-book format, this is about two friends, Sue and Nick, who like very different things but are still best friends.



- **Hughes, Shirley: The Alfie treasury**

From birthday parties to babysitters and big boys to burst pipes, Alfie solves the important mysteries as he takes on shyness, sisters and the brave new world of Big School.



- **Ladybird: This little potty (Ladybird Touch-and-Feel)**

Freddie is using the potty for a wee along with his teddy, Lou is doing a poo and Rory is sitting on his and reading a story! Perfect for sharing with your child as a gentle, pressure-free introduction to potty-training.



- **Oxenbury, Helen: Clap hands**

Helen Oxenbury's much-loved and cherished babies help engage toddlers and encourage a love of reading, in these delightful stories.



- **Raynor, Catherine: Solomon Crocodile**

Solomon is looking for some fun but no one wants to play. The dragonflies tell him to buzz off, the storks get in a flap and the less said about the hippo the better! There must be a pal for a lonely crocodile somewhere?



- **Scarry, Richard: Richard Scarry's Best first book ever**

Huckle Cat and Lowly Worm have fun learning about colours, counting, the alphabet, manners, shapes and sizes and much more in this reprint of a well-loved classic. Each colourful illustration is packed with everyday objects and details.



- **Waddell, Martin: Can't you sleep little bear?**

Little Bear tries to sleep, but he's scared of the dark. So Big Bear keeps bringing him progressively bigger lanterns. Nothing seems to work, until he leads Little Bear out of the Bear Cave into the dark night to see for himself that the dark is nothing to be afraid of.



- **Yoon, Salina: Penguin and Pinecone: A friendship story**

When Penguin finds a lost pinecone in the snow, an unlikely friendship blossoms. But pinecones can't live in the snow. Can Penguin help Pinecone get home? And can they stay friends, even if they're miles apart?

