

FOR FUN IDEAS TO KEEP THEM ENTERTAINED...

...JUST OPEN UP.



PRIMARY 3

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. They 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**



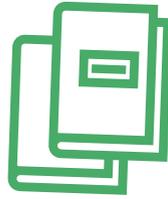
**Counting
activity**



**Listening
and talking
activity**

What's inside the bag?

In the bag, you will find:



Two books

- **Octopus Shocktopus**
by Peter Bently and Steven Lenton
- **The Last Wolf**
by Mini Grey



A notebook and writing pencil



Beastie Battle card game with routine and story activity cards on the reverse



A measuring tape



The 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 together. 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 okay 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)



OCTOPUS SHOCKTOPUS!

PETER BENTLY & STEVEN LENTON



One day, an octopus had come to live on top of a house. It's not long before it makes friends with everyone, so why does it suddenly disappear one night?



Make up an activity of your choice and **tweet** it to us!

@ReadWriteCount

Collective animals

A collective noun is the name for a group of animals, like a murder of crows or a jumble of parrots, but there isn't a collective noun for octopuses as they tend to stay alone. Can you find out any collective nouns for other groups of animals?

Rhyme time

There are lots of rhyming words in this book. You could take turns to cover some of the rhyming words and guess what they might be, or even replace them with other words that rhyme.

House hunting

Look at all the houses in the book together. Do you have a favourite? Use your notebook to draw a picture of your perfect house!



Making friends

How do you think the octopus felt at the start of the book? How would you have made him feel welcome? Talk about or draw some ideas of how you could have made friends if you were the octopus.

How many?

Can you count the total number of legs on each page? Which page has the most and which page has the least?

Surprise stories

Imagine you came home from school to find a surprise on top of your house. How would you feel? Use your story cards to create a story about it together.

Special talents

The octopus is good at lots of different things. Talk together with your family about what you are all good at or what your special skills are. Do they have any special skills that they want to share?

What season?

The book goes through many seasons. Can you look through the book together and name each one? Discuss with your family what your favourite season is and why.

Feeling different

Mrs Antrobus isn't sure about the octopus at first but soon changes her mind. Talk together about a time you were unsure about something and what helped you to change your mind.

Family friends

If you could have a giant animal friend what would it be? Would it be the same as the rest of your family? Talk together and decide which animal you would most like to live on your house. Draw your giant animal friend in your notebook.

Research time

Where would an octopus really live? Can you find out where they live and what they eat? You could create a fact file in your notebook to share with your family.

What do you want to be?

Look at the last page together. You can tell what job people have from their house. Can you identify the different jobs in the story? Which one would you like to have?

Octo-fun

What do you know about the number 8? Can you or can someone in your family say this number in any other languages? Can you find any interesting facts about the number 8?



The Last Wolf



MINI GREY

Little Red sets off into the woods to catch a wolf. But the woods aren't what they seem – and are there even any wolves left?

Return of the beaver

Scotland has some animals that were extinct, like beavers, but have now returned. Can you do some research together to find out more about some of the animals that used to live in Scotland? Do you know what the national animal of Scotland is?

Recycle, reuse!

Red finds a bin bag full of rubbish on her walk. Can you have a look around your house together and talk about what things can be recycled instead of thrown away?



Healthy choices

Red shares what is in her lunch box with the animals. Can you use the lunchbox page in your notebook to make a shopping list together and draw a healthy lunch?

Pack a bag

At the start of the book, Red is preparing for her journey. Talk about what you would take with you to go and explore in the forest or the park. You can use the notebook to list and draw your items together.

Map it out

Can you use a map (either paper or online) to find out where the nearest park and trees are to you? How long do you think it would take you to get there? Try to estimate and then time yourself when you and your family go, and see how accurate your estimate was.

Talk about where this book is set. Can you use your storytelling cards to design a setting for your own story?

Traditional tales

Talk about the characters in this book. Can you think of any other story with similar characters? How are they different in other stories? Have you heard or seen them in any other stories? What other traditional tales are there that you and your family know?

Little seedlings

Little Red plants some acorns to grow into trees. Can you find some seeds on the ground beside some local trees which you could plant? What different seeds can you find? How can you help them grow?

Time travelling

Can you use the internet or visit your local library to find out what your area looked like 100 years ago? You can compare it to what it looks like now and see what has changed. Why not interview some of the older members of your family or community and ask them what life was like when they were your age? For example, you could ask about their favourite foods or games.

Portrait hall

The wolves in the portrait hall have some funny wolf-themed names. Can your family come up with some more to join them? Use the portrait page in your notebook to draw a picture of a wolf and label it with your best name.



Game time

The animals are playing snakes and ladders. Can you talk together about games that you all enjoy playing? What did your family members enjoy playing when they were your age?

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, while keeping your child's mind busy and having lots of fun together too.

Story Cards

These cards can help you create new stories together. The cards include three themes to help tell the story: characters, settings and items.

Story key

Character	Setting	Item
Astronaut	Snowy scene	Key
Octopus	Spooky house	Backpack
Merman	Cave	Writing equipment
Scientist	City	Present
Troll	Space	Phone
Ghost	Rainforest	Telescope
Robot	Desert	
Wolf	Stage	
Unicorn	Garden shed	
Older woman	Castle	
Cat	Underwater	



Describing words

Choose one of the character cards and identify the picture (e.g. Unicorn). Ask your child to think of as many different words as they can to describe the image. They could draw the image in the centre of a page in their notebook and write the words around it.



Draw a story

Ask your child to choose one character card, one item card and one setting card, then draw a picture using the cards as inspiration. Encourage them to explain what is happening in the picture. They could use this as a plan for a story. Try again with more than two characters!

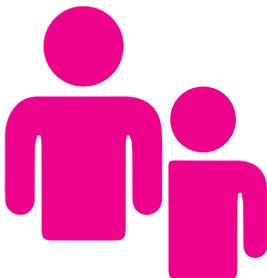


Try this when you need to stay indoors on a rainy day.



Story challenge

Take turns to tell a story in 30 seconds, using at least one character card, one item card and one setting card.





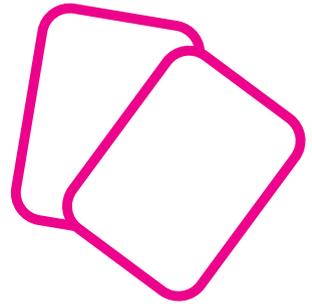
Create a story

Ask your child to choose three characters, one item and a setting and make up a story. They could tell it to you, write it down, act it out or even film it!



Pass the story

One player starts the story by choosing one character, one item and one setting, making up a story around them. Each player takes it in turns to choose another character or item and add another a sentence to the story. Try picking a new setting and changing the direction of the story too. The sillier the story ends up, the better!



A great way to pass the time together on a long journey.

50 Word Fiction Competition



Encourage your child to use their story cards to help them enter the 50 Word Fiction Competition. For more information about how to enter visit: scottishbooktrust.com/50words

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!

Beastie Battle



Aim of the game:

To win as many cards as you can from the pack by choosing the winning category in each round.

How to play:

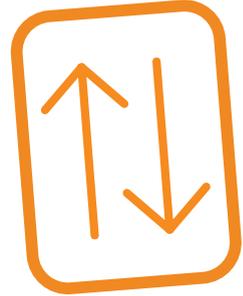
To start the game, shuffle and deal all the cards amongst the players. Each player holds their cards so they can only see the top card. The first player starts by reading out a category (e.g. weight). The player with the highest number on their top card wins, and that player collects all the cards in play. It is then their turn again to choose one of the four categories (length, weight, lifespan or special skill) from the next card. If two or more cards share the highest value the same player chooses again a different category (the winner of the hand takes those cards as well). The person with the most cards at the end is the winner.

Challenge your child to do the following:

- Find the heaviest and lightest animals.
- Find the longest and shortest animals.
- Find the animal with the highest special skill score.
- Find an object in your house which is similar in length to one of the animals, using the tape measure to help them.
- Use the length category and sort all the cards into animals that are shorter or longer than one metre.

Higher or lower

Arrange the cards face down into a pile. Turn over the first card and choose a category to play with e.g. length. Guess if the next animal's length will be higher or lower than the one in your hand. Turn it over and if you are correct, take another go with the same category. Keep going for as long as you get it right and keep all the cards you win. If you get it wrong, your turn ends and it is the next player's go to turn over the next card and choose a category.



Make your own card

Choose another creature that isn't included in the pack. Research some facts about the animal and complete the spare template card in the pack with your information.



Snap!

Can you find any animals that appear on the cards and in either of the books in your bag?



Whit's it called?

Do you know the Scottish name for any of the animals? Talk together about the different names some animals have.



Animal spotting

Which of the animals on the cards have you seen in Scotland before and which have you never seen? Can you sort them into two piles? Get your family to do the same and compare your answers.

Routine Cards



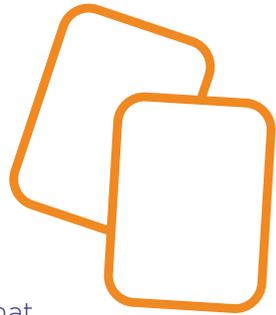
Match up

Match up the activities with the different times of the day – do these activities happen at the same time every day for you?



Charades

Choose a card and act out the activity – can the other person guess which activity you are miming?



What's next?

Choose two of the time cards and talk about what adventures you could have during that time.



My routine

Using the cards, can you sort the activities into the order you would do them in? Draw a picture in your notebook of an important part of your routine and write down the time it happens at. You can also use the cards to show your favourite activity and the time you do it.



Mixed up days

Imagine a mixed up day where you did things in the wrong order! Re-arrange the cards and write a story together about what that day might look like. Don't forget to be as creative, imaginative and silly as you can be!



Measuring Tape

This measuring tape is a flexible form of a ruler. Look on the back for ideas of what you could measure in or around your home.

3^{1/2} Guesstimate

Measure an object in your home, like the length of a shoe. What if you had two shoes in a row – can you estimate the length of two shoes and see how close you are?

3^{1/2} Record keeping

Start a measurement journal in your notebook and record the lengths, heights and widths of different objects. Look at the reverse side of the measuring tape for ideas of things to measure.



3^{1/2} Strange shapes

Some things can be difficult to measure because of their shape. With an adult, try using a piece of string to help you measure an unusually shaped object by wrapping it around the part of the object that you want to measure, holding the part where the string joins and then measuring the length of the string.

3^{1/2} Stretch it out

Find something that is longer than your measuring tape. Can you try and measure it by using the measuring tape a few times and adding the lengths together?

¹/₃ How far can you go?

Get active and use your measuring tape as you go. Try measuring how far you can jump, or run in 30 seconds, and compare it to your family members.



¹/₃ Beastie Battle

Choose a Beastie Battle character with a length of 2m or less, then try and find an object with a similar length, using your measuring tape to check.



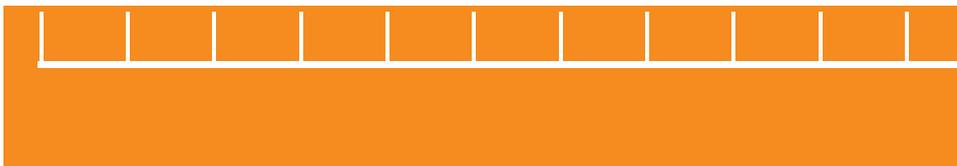
¹/₃ Fraction fun

Take your measuring tape with you when you go out - can you find an object that is 1m long? What about something that is half that length or a quarter of that length - how many centimetres would that be?



¹/₃ Walking measures

On your walks, find items that you think might be less than 10cm long then use your measuring tape to see if you're right! Can you put them in order according to their length? How many other ways can you order them?



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 Play Talk Read 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



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot