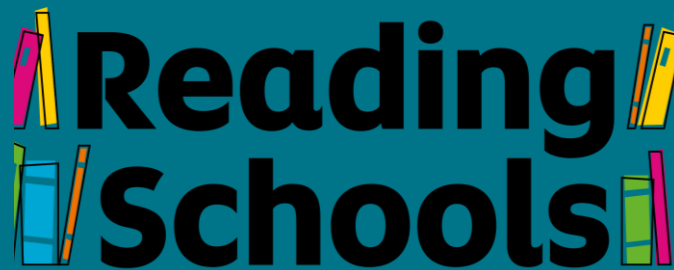


# Reading Schools ELC

## The importance of reading for pleasure

Thank you for joining us. The webinar will begin shortly.



**Early Learning  
and Childcare**

# Today's session

- Joining us today:
  - Liam McCallum, Reading Schools Project Manager
  - ★ Jane Whitaker, Early Years Training and Development Manager
  - ★ Paul Kane, Senior Early Years Trainer
- Session outline:
  - Why is reading good for you?
  - The importance of reading for pleasure
  - Where does Reading Schools ELC fit in?
  - What Bookbug can offer (with special guests!)
  - What reading looks like in your setting
  - Next steps and questions
  - Upcoming opportunities



# Scottish Book Trust

We are a national charity that has been bringing the transformational benefits of reading and writing to everyone in Scotland since 1998.

We believe books, reading and writing have the power to change lives. A love of reading **inspires creativity**, improves **employment opportunities**, **mental health** and **wellbeing** and is one of the most effective ways to help **break the poverty cycle**.

## Research:

Published – [The value and impact of Scotland's public libraries](#)

Open – [Readers of Scotland](#)



# Why is reading is good for you? (1)



"This is more than merely a distraction but an active engaging of the imagination as the words on the printed page **stimulate your creativity** and cause you to enter what is essentially an **altered state of consciousness.**"

# Why is reading good for you? (2)

“Reading for pleasure is **positively associated** with comprehension, grammar and wider vocabulary”

(Sullivan and Brown, 2015)

“...sharing stories, songs and rhymes **supports and accelerates**, children's early language, vocabulary, cognitive and motor skill development”

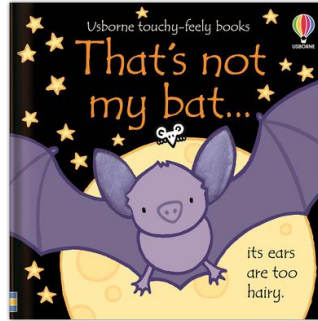
(Dowdall, N. et al, 2020; Weisleder, A., & Fernald, A, 2013; Mullen, G, 2017)

“...the language of picture books is denser and more diverse than everyday speech, providing the opportunity for **more advanced language development**”

(Weisleder, A., & Fernald, A, 2013)

# Why is reading good for you? (3)

Board books contain an average of **140 words**



Picture books contain an average of **320 words**



Before a child is **5 years old...**

*Never read to* = **4,662 words**

*Read to 1-2 times a week* = **63,570 words**

*Read to 3-5 times a week* = **169,520 words**

*A child who shares books daily* = **296,660 words**

*Consuming 5 books per day* = **1,483,300 words**

# Environmental Print



Friday	
16	June
2023	

Sand Table



 **Reading**   
**Schools** 

The role of environmental print in emergent literacy: Journal of Early Childhood Literacy  
September 2012

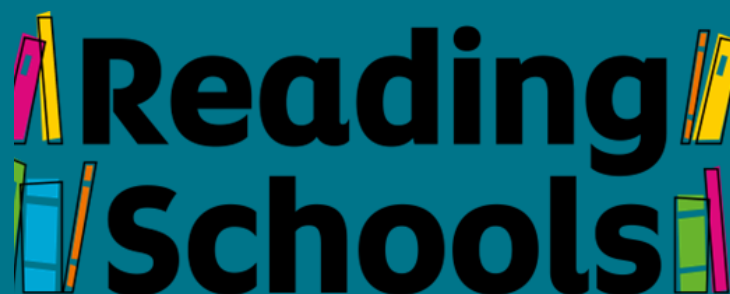


# Sharing is caring!

What was your favourite book as a child?

What do you like to read now?

Pop them in the chat 😁





# Reading for pleasure (1)

Reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success (OECD, 2002).

## Reading offers:

- Comfort and connection
- Insight and understanding into other worlds and experiences
- Escapism
- Can reduce stress and anxiety
- Models of good social skills
- A soothing wind-down to help us to sleep better

Reading is a social and emotional investment, with the potential for invaluable returns.

# Reading for pleasure (2)

- ★ Skills across learning
- ★ Motivation to learn
- ★ Social skills
- ★ Relaxation
- ★ Stress relief
- ★ Enjoyment
- ★ Increased life chances



“...what matters most is the **quality of a child's home learning environment**, followed by the **quality of the education and care** that they receive”

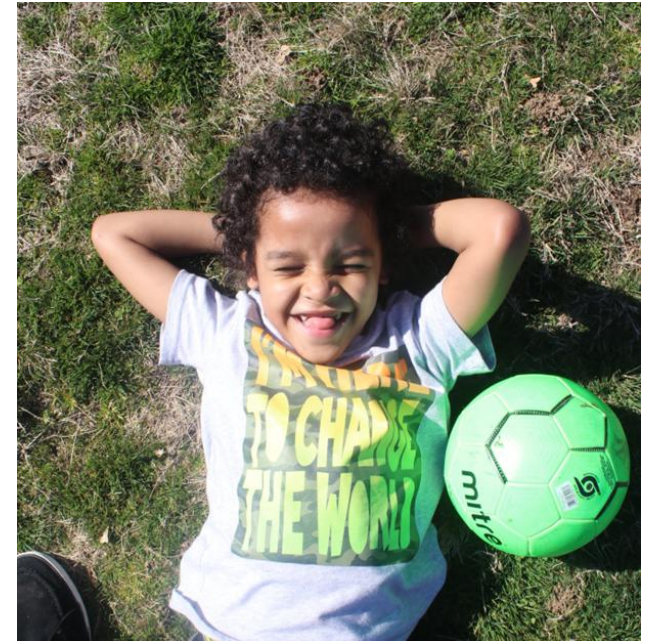
(Melhuish, 2010)

[scottishbooktrust.com](http://scottishbooktrust.com)

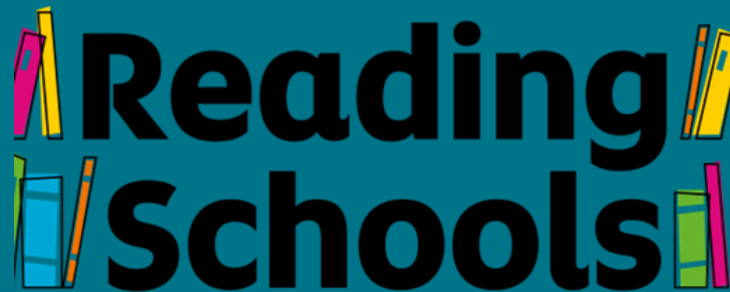
# National Literacy Trust

Children and young people who **enjoy reading very much** and who **think positively about reading** have, on average, **higher mental wellbeing** scores than their peers who don't enjoy reading at all and who hold negative attitudes towards reading.

(Clark and Teravainen-Goff, 2018, p. 2)



# What is Reading Schools ELC and where does it fit in?



# What is Reading Schools?

A national accreditation framework to recognise and reward schools for building and sustaining a whole-school reading culture in their setting.



- Easy
- Consolidating
- Valuable
- Empowering
- Prestigious
- Community
- Fun

# Reading Schools ELC offers

- An **accreditation** that champions the **reading culture** for every setting
- A **coherent structure** for all your reading and literacy initiatives, through a framework mapped to the Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare sectors
- **Resources, training and support** from Scottish Book Trust
- **Professional development and leadership** opportunities for staff
- Ways to champion **learner voice**, leadership and confidence
- **Opportunities to connect** within and across schools, and engage **families and your wider community**

*“... such a positive experience as it has built understanding of emotions and feelings through stories” – EY Practitioner, 2023/24 Evaluation*



# Direct links to the national framework

## The Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare Sectors 2025

### Leadership

Promoting reading

Understanding the importance

Knowledge of stories, songs and rhymes

Monitoring and adapting

### Children Thrive and Develop in Quality Spaces

Reading-rich spaces

Visible value placed on reading

Reading is recognised and celebrated

Deepening connections with stories

### Play and learning

Social and peer-to-peer connections

Access to stories, songs and rhymes

Regularity of access and sharing

Cross-curricular connections

Interactions with and around stories

### Nurturing care and support

Meaningful child involvement

Meaningful and supportive conversations around reading

Family engagement and home reading



# Aligning priorities

“... in play-based environments **children achieve greater success** in literacy and mathematical knowledge / skills”

(Suggate, 2006)

“Play as a **fundamental cognitive activity** is preparation for more **complex cognitive activities** such as literacy...”

**Symbolic behaviour** in play is related to the understanding of a **representational system** like written language.

Language **behaviour** in play is related to literate **language**.

When children are offered play experience with **literacy-related resources**, they act in literate ways”

(Hall, 1991)

# Bookbug (1)



**LIBRARY** LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS  
Successful Practices Honoree 2025



Encourages parents and children to  
**share stories, songs and rhymes**  
together from before birth

In **every local authority and health  
board** in Scotland

**Local Bookbug Co-ordinator** in every  
local authority

Funded by the Scottish Government

[www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug)

# Bookbug (2)



Doing frequent home learning activities such as **reading and singing** from an early age is associated with **better cognitive ability** (vocabulary and problem solving) at age 3



*Growing up in Scotland – the impact of children's early activities on cognitive development.* Bromley, C.

[www.growingupinscotland.org.uk](http://www.growingupinscotland.org.uk)

# Special Guests

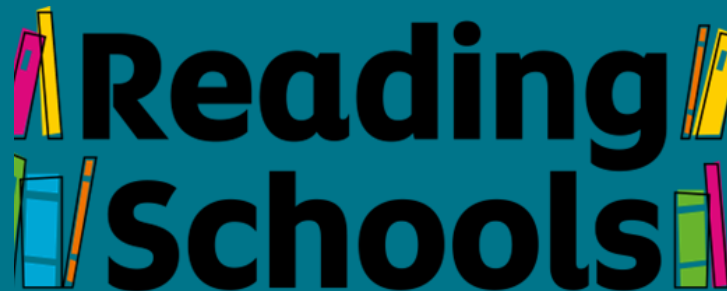


**Jane Whitaker**

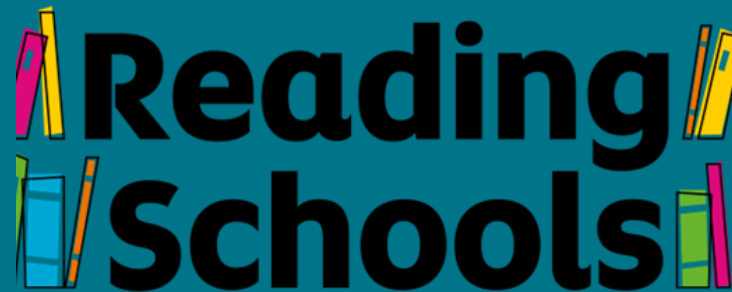
**Early Years Training & Development Manager  
&**

**Paul Kane**

**Senior Early Years Trainer**



# What does reading and sharing stories, songs and rhymes look like in your setting?



# Now you can get started

- Visit [www.readingschools.scot](http://www.readingschools.scot) to create your user log in and application for your setting
- Visit our special [ELC landing page](#) and explore [the framework](#)
- Have a look at [our e-learning module](#) for a deeper dive
- Form your Reading Leadership Group with staff and children
- Plan your CLPL calendar
- Capture the attitudes of your children [using our handy templates](#)
- Start your accreditation journey!

# Preparation is key

- Preparation is key to the success of your Reading Schools ELC journey
- Assemble your key players across the setting
- Make sure your plans are realistic and achievable, with your children's input
- Don't be afraid to change your plans, as long they continue to meet the key area criteria
- Ask for support



Early Learning  
and Childcare



# Any questions..?

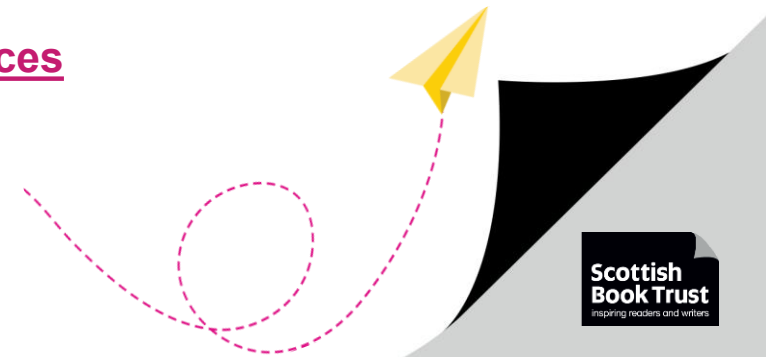
Pop them in the chat or unmute and speak with us!



# Upcoming Opportunities



- The Reading Schools ELC journey:
  - [An introduction to Reading Schools ELC](#) – Wednesday 24 September, 17.00-18.00
- Start and Spark sessions (17.00-18.00):
  - [Thursday 22 October](#) – ‘The journey so far’
  - [Tuesday 25 November](#) – ‘You choose’
- Other [Scottish Book Trust CLPL](#)
- [Early Years CLPL](#)
- [Bookbug training](#)
- [Bookbug webinar recordings and learning resources](#)
- [Book lists for your perusal](#)



# We appreciate your feedback

Please take a second to complete our quick survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y7CDHLL>



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# Thank you

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