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# Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds

2nd edition

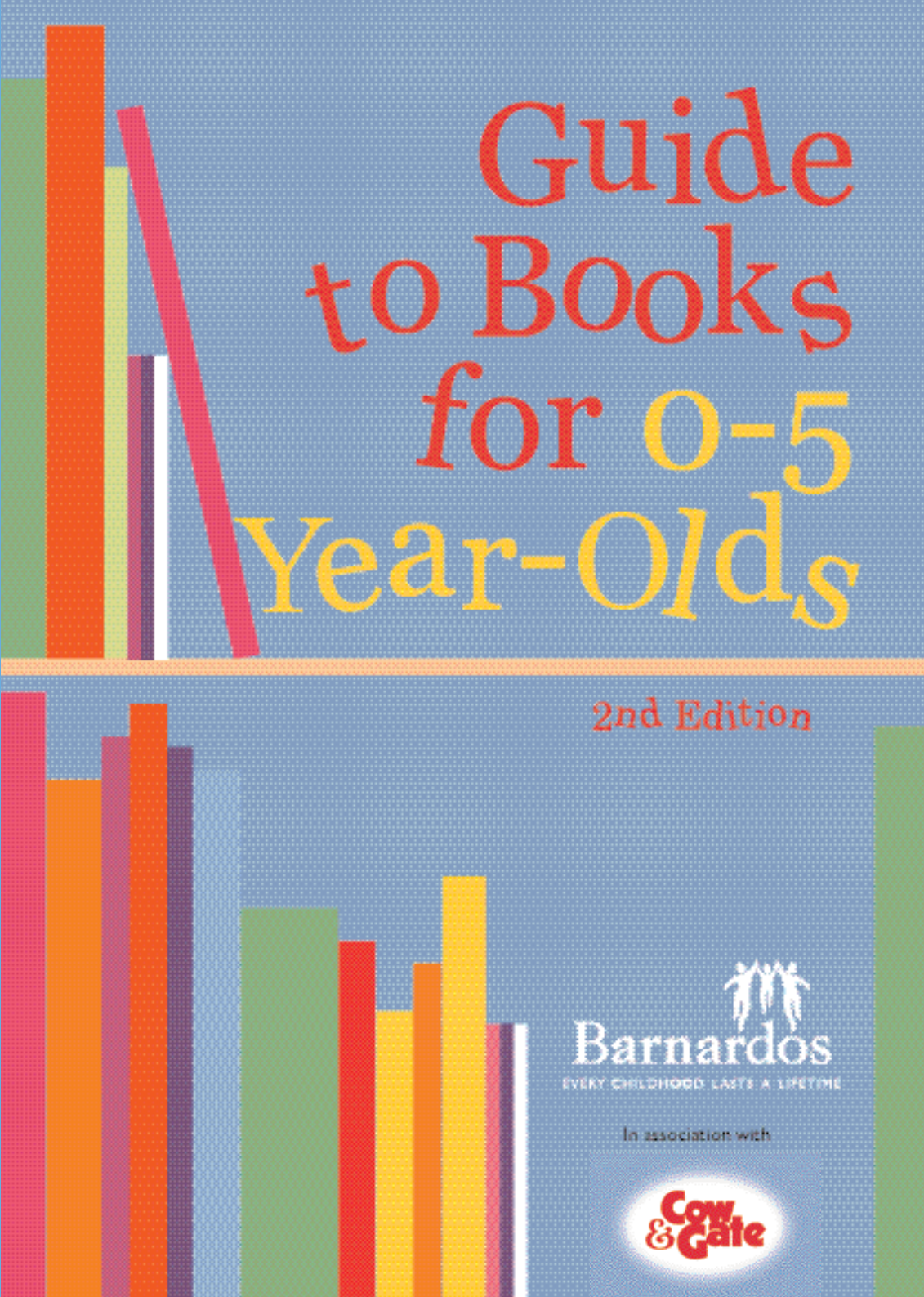
“Being read to by parents, family members, and other significant adults creates a close physical and personal bond, so children associate the satisfaction of warm human relationships with stories and reading. As the process is repeated over and over again, children also begin to make connections between the written and spoken word and to gain a sense of how to use language and tell stories.”

**Hohmann and Weikart**  
*Educating Young Children*  
(High/Scope Press, 1995)

led by  
Published by  
The National Children's Resource Centre  
Barnardos  
Christchurch Square  
Dublin 8

ISBN: 1 898662 89 4

© 2004 Barnardos' NCRC

A graphic of a bookshelf with several colorful books (green, orange, pink, purple, blue, yellow) on the shelves. The title 'Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds' is written in large, stylized letters across the top of the bookshelf.

# Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds

2nd Edition



**Barnardos**  
EVERY CHILDHOOD LASTS A LIFETIME

In association with



**Cow  
& Gate**

# Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds



A boy of six years recently took a holiday with his family. In his luggage were lots of toys for the journey but just two books. As it turned out, only one book was needed. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes, was requested and read eight times each day. This particularly engaging book was read cover to cover, back to front, and on occasion, favourite pages were chosen and read over and over. Frequently, reading had to be suspended for lengthy periods of time as the six year old and the adult collapsed in fits of giggles at previously unseen details on certain pages. Towards the end of the two-week holiday, the six year old picked up the book and read large sections of the text to himself, from memory using intonation and pausing for effect. This is the mark of a great book, it continues to surprise, delight and engage its reader, long after the pages have been creased and stuck together with blobs of jam, drops of milk and pieces of melted chocolate.

It is with enormous gratitude and sense of privilege that I accepted the request from Cow & Gate and Barnardos to choose forty new books for children aged 0 to 5 years. I have been both surprised and delighted by the volume of new books that have been published since the first edition of this guide. The books included in this guide have been chosen using the same criteria as previously applied – they are books that will delight, humour, enthrall and surprise their readers. They will be cherished for years to come and they will instil in the young reader a love for the story and its telling. Thank you for the opportunity to find such treasure.

**Barbara Ryan**

**Lead Pre-school Worker, Barnardos, September 2004**

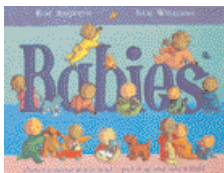
Last year, Cow & Gate received an overwhelmingly positive response to Barnardos' first-ever *Guide to Books for 0-5 Year-Olds*. In the internet age, it is reassuring to see that books haven't lost their amazing power to captivate and enthrall. We hope that this second edition will encourage parents, relatives and carers to open up the wonderful world of reading to the babies, toddlers and children in their care. Reading helps to stimulate young imaginations, fosters creativity and teaches children valuable lessons about life itself. We are grateful to the well-known personalities who took the time to review some of our recommendations this year with the little people in their lives.

**Aileen Regan**

**Head of Nutrition, Cow & Gate Ireland**

The books recommended in this guide are available from Irish bookshops, libraries or via the internet and are priced between €5 and €15.

# Recommended Books for 0 to Toddler



## BABIES

ROS ASQUITH

0 TO 2 YEARS

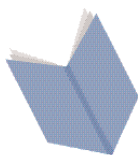
This is a perfect first book showing the many expressions of baby such as “happy” and “cross”, “wobbly” and “nibbly”. The illustrations and words are both clear and engaging, inviting interaction between baby and reader.

ISBN: 0 333962 20 6

Publisher: Macmillan

*I thought I was mad trying to read a book to a 4 month old, but this book has changed my opinion completely. At that age little ones love playing and interacting with their parents and Babies encourages you to act out the script with your child, giving him/her a tickle or a cuddle when the book prompts. It's great fun, and one to be read every day just to see your child crack up in fits of giggles.*

**Sheana Keane, TV presenter and mum to Isabelle.**



## WHOSE HAT IS THAT?

RICHARD POWELL

ILLUSTRATED BY ANA MARTÍN-LARRAÑAGA

0 TO 2 YEARS

This charming book combines the elements of surprise and guessing that invite readers to predict the character in the hat. The book is well illustrated, engaging, sturdy and easy to hold.

ISBN: 1 589257 40 5

Publisher: Tiger Tales





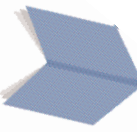
## HAPPY DOG, SAD DOG

SAM LLOYD  
0 TO 2 YEARS

This lovely book explores the concept of opposites. A well illustrated, simple book with funny and easy to memorise text. This is a very appealing book for the early reader.

ISBN: 1 854308 74 2

Publisher: Little Tiger Press



GOSSIE  
OLIVIER DUNREA  
0 TO 2 YEARS

Gossie is part of a series of books by the same author that follows the days and adventures of some goslings. The books are full of charm and are beautifully drawn. The short sentences make up simple and humorous gosling stories. In *Gossie* one gosling has new red boots and comes up with an innovative way of sharing the boots with his friends.

ISBN: 1 844288 40 4

Publisher: Walker Books

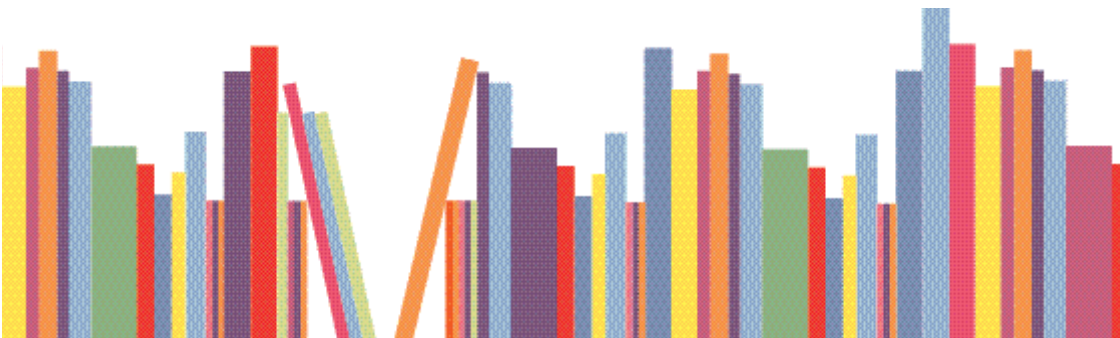


YUMMY YUCKY  
LESLIE PATRICELLI  
12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

A delightful book, alternating such concepts as yummy and yucky, big and little, quiet and loud. The words are well reflected by the illustrations. An engaging and funny book for toddlers and parents.

ISBN: 0 744593 38 7

Publisher: Walker Books





## CHARLIE CHICK

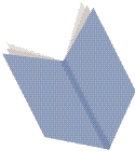
NICK DENCHFIELD AND ANT PARKER

0 TO 2 YEARS

A book with surprise pop-ups on alternating pages. A big chuckle factor to this lovely read. A lovely book to read with very young children, as the words are few and the drawings full of humour and charm.

ISBN: 1 405034 60 2

Publisher: Campbell Books



## THE ALPHABET ROOM

SARA PINTO

0 TO 4 YEARS

A most unusual yet true treasure of a book for first ABCs or the sheer delight of beautiful illustrations and an intriguing textless story. Each letter faces a page whose flap reveals an element to the story that builds to the last page. A book that will be savoured by children of all ages.

ISBN: 0 747564 59 0

Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books



## PAT-A-CAKE, PAT-A-CAKE

MATHEW PRICE

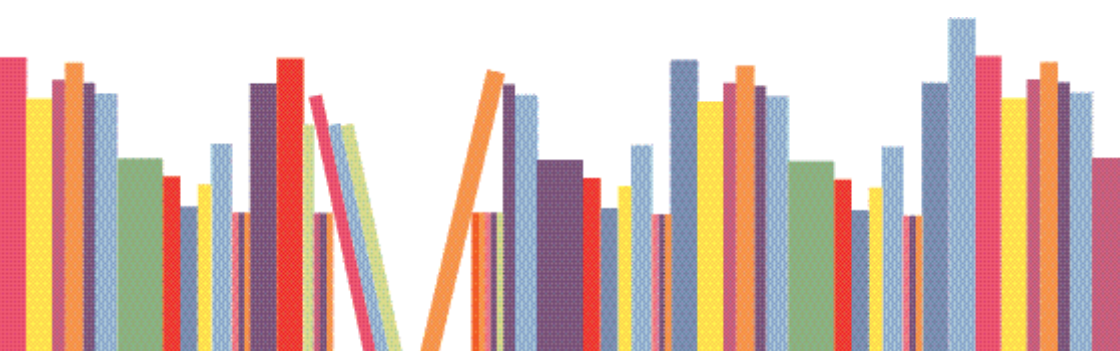
ILLUSTRATED BY MOIRA KEMP

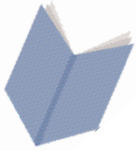
0 TO 2 YEARS

This book puts the well-known rhyme to paper. It is well drawn and engaging. Babies and toddlers will enjoy clapping along to this old rhyme, mimicking the pictures in this lovely book.

ISBN: 1 842480 68 5

Publisher: Mathew Price Ltd





## THAT'S NOT MY BUNNY

FIONA WATT

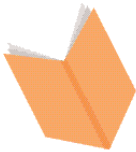
ILLUSTRATED BY RACHEL WELLS

12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

In this touch and feel book, a bunny looks for her mother with the help of a mouse. The repetition and short, clear text make this a captivating read. Each page reveals the wrong bunny such as the one with "a nose too wrinkly" with that always popular finale of a successful search.

ISBN: 0 746041 79 9

Publisher: Usborne Publishing



## HUMPHREY'S DAY

SALLY HUNTER

12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

*Humphrey's day* is full of activity. He builds a fort, collects his sister from school and bakes jam tarts with mum. This is a beautifully illustrated and gently worded book of a young pre-school elephant, his challenges and delights.

ISBN: 0 140569 28 6

Publisher: Puffin Books



## FUNNY BUNNY

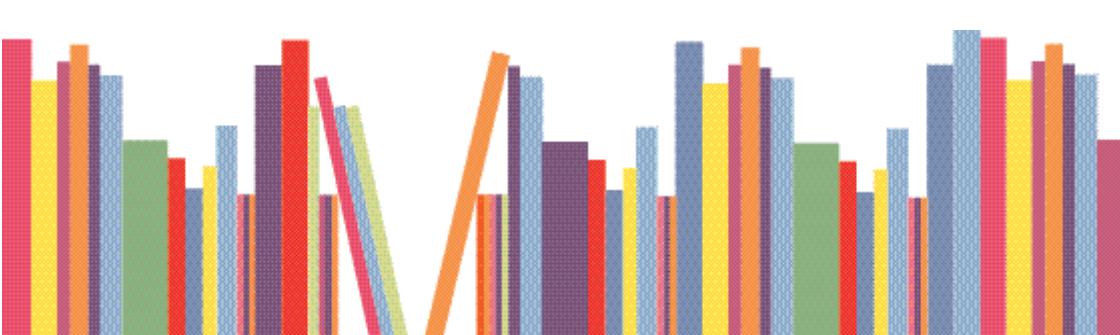
BEN CORT

12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

Bunny has lost his mummy and must find her on the farm. A short and enjoyable book with lovely illustrations and well worded text.

ISBN: 1 405020 06 7

Publisher: Campbell Books





## ONE GORGEOUS BABY

MARTINE OBORNE

ILLUSTRATED BY INGRID GODON

0 TO 2 YEARS

Babies and adults alike will relish this lovely counting story that ends with “one gorgeous baby”. Baby counts nappies, bananas, sticky fingers and bumpy steps. The book is one for cuddling and tickling.

ISBN: 1 405019 68 9

Publisher: Campbell Books

*Dylan and Murray love books and they really enjoyed One Gorgeous Baby. With the help of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, we've been counting since they were very small. One Gorgeous Baby continues this with learning about two eyes (they laugh when you cover their eyes), right up to ten sticky fingers. Reading this type of beautifully illustrated book is fun and helps them learn new words as well as numbers. All three of us enjoyed it. Perfect for quiet-time before bed.*

**Cathy Kelly, author and mum to twins Dylan and Murray Sheehan, aged 1.**



## BABY PARADE

JAKKI WOOD

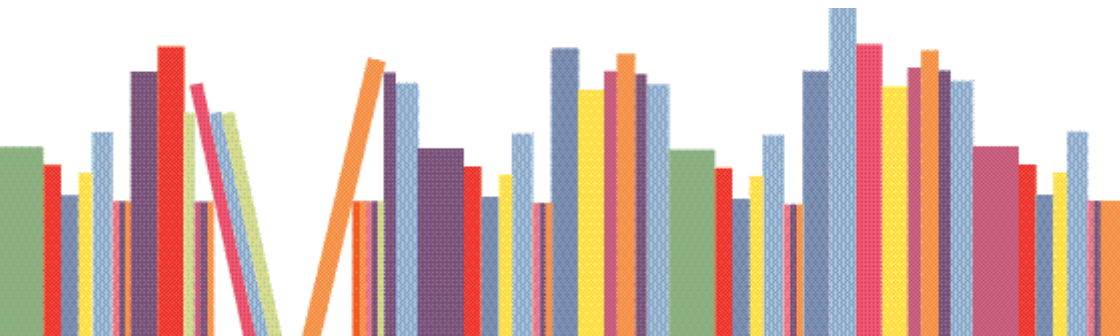
ILLUSTRATED BY FRANCIS WOOD

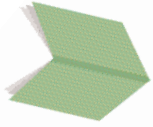
12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

A wonderful first book that combines bright illustrations with simple melodic wording for the early reader.

ISBN: 1 845072 73 1

Publisher: Frances Lincoln





## HIPPOS GO BERSERK

SANDRA BOYNTON

12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

A wonderful first counting book with clear and humorous illustrations that well match the rhyming text that counts up to, and back from one to ten.

ISBN: 0 689808 54 2

Publisher: Simon and Schuster



## HUNGRY PIG

RUSSELL JULIAN

0 TO 2 YEARS

Colour, rhyme, animals and sound are combined to make a lovely first book. *Hungry Pig* is one of a series of four books, all of which are recommended for the young reader.

ISBN: 1 405210 32 X

Publisher: Egmont Books



## TEN OUT OF BED

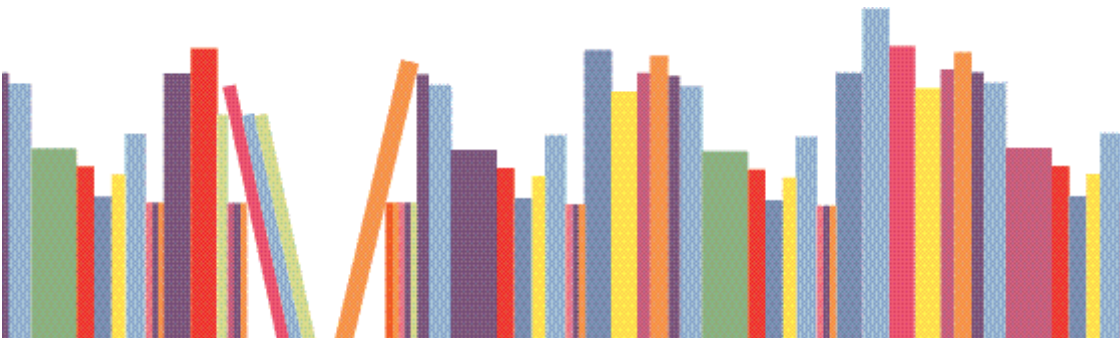
PENNY DALE

12 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

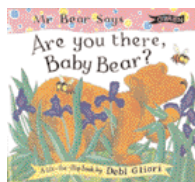
As with its predecessor, *Ten in a Bed*, this book presents an exceptionally well-illustrated book where each page is a visual feast. The drawings are beautifully matched with melodic, rhyming text.

ISBN: 0 744543 83 5

Publisher: Walker Books







## ARE YOU THERE BABY BEAR?

DEBI GLIORI

12 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

A beautiful hardback book that has the qualities of simplicity and warmth as well as being the perfect length for the early reader:

ISBN: 0 862785 31 6

Publisher: The O'Brien Press

*Who better to review this beautifully illustrated book than my nieces Ellen and Amy? Ellen promptly tried to read it herself and loved counting the animals. Amy was fascinated by what was under the windows. They had huge fun shouting rhymes at the top of their voices. All in all a great read for little people. The colourful characters found along the way are as interesting as baby bear being missing in the first place! The kids loved it and so did I.*

**Mary Kingston, RTE TV presenter and aunt to Ellen aged 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and Amy aged 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.**



## MAISY'S YEAR

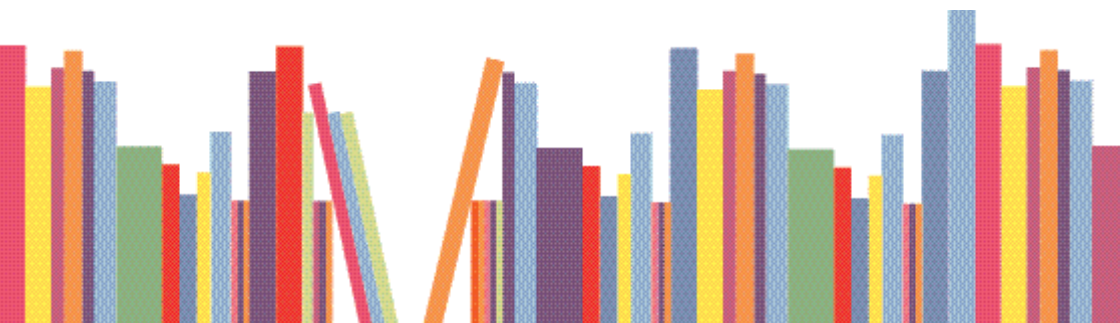
LUCY COUSINS

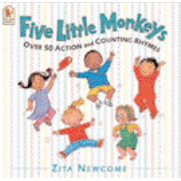
12 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

As with all Maisy stories, *Maisy's Year* is engaging and delightful. All of Maisy's friends appear in this book that takes the reader on a journey through the seasons with flaps and wheels to keep the early reader engaged.

ISBN: 0 744592 48 8

Publisher: Walker Books





## FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS

ZITA NEWCOMBE

0 TO 6 YEARS

A fantastic book that brings together classic and modern well-loved rhymes. This book has all you will need to join in with your child's jumping, bouncing, driving and dancing rhymes, complete with great illustrations. Wheels on the Bus and 5 Little Monkeys are among the 50 favourites.

ISBN: 0 744598 25 7

Publisher: Walker Books

*Katie absolutely loved this hugely interactive book. She got so involved with the stories and put on a first class performance, dancing and jumping around to the different rhymes. Many of them were old favourites of hers and she especially enjoyed pretending to drive along while reading Wheels on the Bus. A very enjoyable reading experience for both of us!*

**Albert Reynolds, former Taoiseach and grandfather to Katie aged 4.**



## FARM 1 2 3

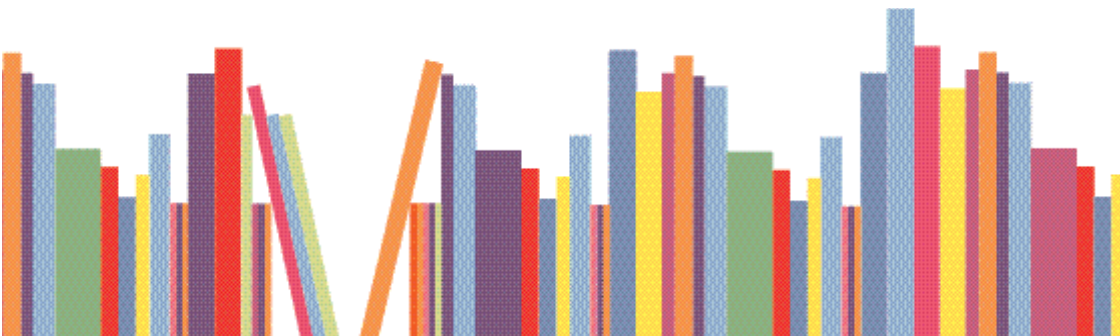
ROD CAMPBELL

0 TO 2 YEARS

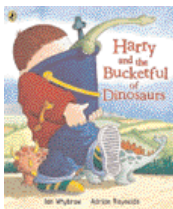
A highly recommended book of counting that combines lovely drawings and text that can be enjoyed and memorised. Children love to open the flaps and anticipate the next animal.

ISBN: 1 405020 09 1

Publisher: Campbell Books



# Recommended Books for 2-5 Year-Olds



## HARRY AND THE BUCKETFUL OF DINOSAURS

IAN WHYBROW

ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN REYNOLDS

3 TO 6 YEARS

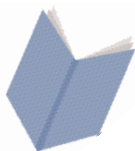
This is a must read for the child who loves dinosaurs. The boy in the story loses his beloved dinosaurs and when they are found he must name them to prove that they are his. Throughout the book the dinosaurs are well illustrated and named for the benefit of the adult who may need some dinosaur tips.

ISBN: 0 141380 97 7

Publisher: Puffin Books

*This beautiful illustrated book was a big hit with Cathal, aged 3. He constantly turned back the pages to read the pictures again and again. He really liked the part where Harry has left his beloved dinosaurs on the train and is crying with his nan. The older children, Orlaith, James and Áine liked how the book "sounded-out" the big names of the dinosaurs and so did I!*

**Maireád McGuinness, Fine Gael MEP for Ireland East and mother of four.**



## THE GIRAFFE WHO CAME TO DINNER

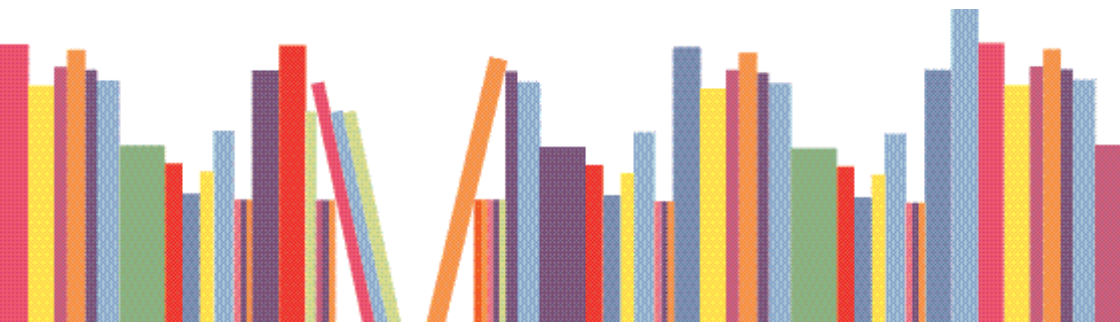
PATRICE AGGS

3 TO 5 YEARS

This book has the successful combination of bright and clear illustrations matched by humorous, engaging text.

ISBN: 0 862787 009

Publisher: The O'Brien Press



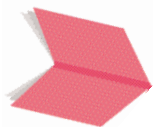


## BE GOOD GORDON

ANGELA MCALLISTER

4 TO 6 YEARS

A very well behaved Gordon gets a babysitter who proves to need some minding herself. Lots of bed bouncing and mischief from the babysitter until well-behaved Gordon can't resist joining in. The colourful, clear and quirky illustrations bring this wonderful story to life.  
ISBN: 0 7457555 80 X *Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books*



## IT'S MINE

EWA LIPNIACKA

ILLUSTRATED BY JANE MASSEY

2 TO 5 YEARS

An ideal book for children who are having trouble sharing their toys. Two little rabbits show the reader how to share everything, including the chicken pox. This book is short, clear, colourful and a lovely read.  
ISBN: 1 854308 69 6 *Publisher: Little Tiger Press*

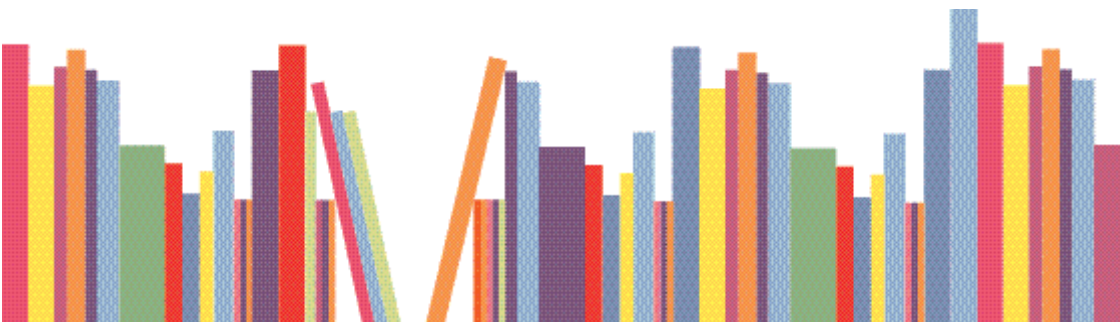


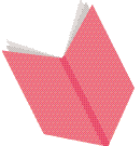
## CONTRARY MARY

ANITA JERAM

2 TO 5 YEARS

Mary is a very unco-operative mouse who does the opposite of what she is asked. When it is time for Mary to go to bed, Mother mouse tucks her in upside down, opens the curtains and kisses her toes goodnight! A wonderfully silly book for children and parents that finds humour in a child's search for independence.  
ISBN: 0 744592 44 5 *Publisher: Walker Books*





## HAPPY CHRISTMAS LULU

CAROLINE UFF

2 TO 4 YEARS

A lovely book that is simply worded and colourful that guides the young reader through the preparations for Christmas.

ISBN: 1 843620 24 3

Publisher: Orchard Press



## HURRY, SANTA!

JULIE SYKES

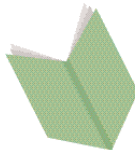
ILLUSTRATED BY TIM WARNES

2 TO 5 YEARS

Santa sleeps late and his reindeers must help him deliver every last present before Christmas morning. This humorous book combines wonderful illustrations with repeated phrases and a nicely paced story making it a fun read for young children.

ISBN: 1 854304 61 5

Publisher: Little Tiger Press



## MY CAT JUST SLEEPS

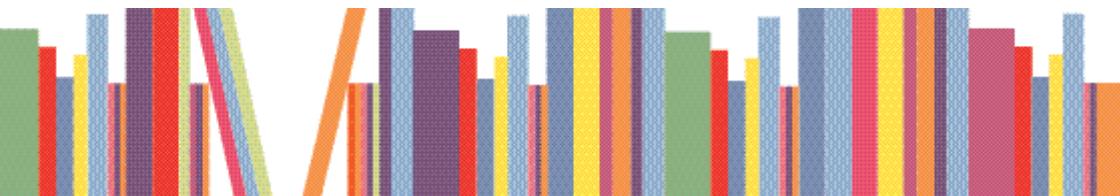
JOANNE PARTIS

2 TO 4 YEARS

A wonderful story of a girl and her cat. The cat mysteriously sleeps all day while the other cats play. The final page reveals the answer to the mystery when we see the cat dancing the night away to the enjoyment of his cat friends.

ISBN: 0 192725 36 X

Publisher: Oxford University Press





## BEWARE OF THE BEARS

ALAN MACDONALD

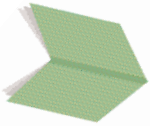
ILLUSTRATED BY GWYNETH WILLIAMSON

2 TO 5 YEARS

Ever wonder what happened after Goldilocks ran out of the bears' house? In this beautifully drawn story the bears take revenge on Goldilocks by messing her house only to find that the now upside down house really belongs to the Big Bad Wolf.

ISBN: 1 854304 57 7

Publisher: Little Tiger Press



## ROSIE'S WALK

PAT HUTCHINS

2 TO 5 YEARS

A classic that children have been reading for over three decades combining unique illustrations and telling the story of a short sighted and endearing hen who narrowly misses the crafty fox as she strolls across the farm. A great 'behind you' story.

ISBN: 0 099413 99 X

Publisher: Red Fox



## LITTLE YELLOW DOG

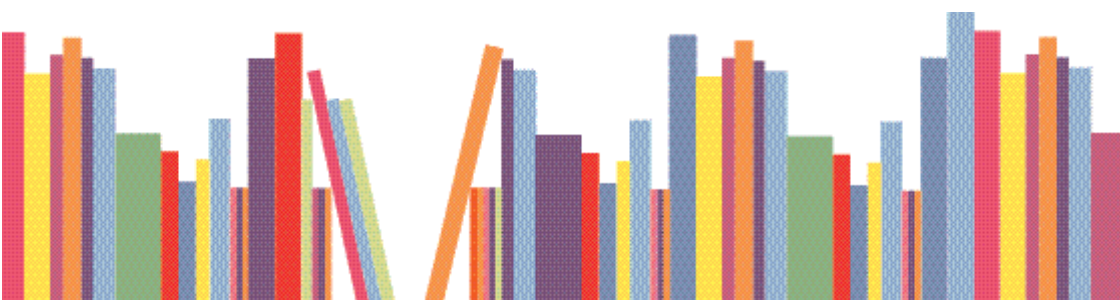
FRANCESCA SIMON

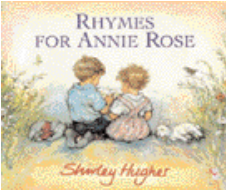
3 TO 5 YEARS

A lovely book that uses bare illustrations to tell the story of a dog whose favourite chair has been taken by the cat. A chase follows until they discover that the chair has then been taken by the rabbit. The animals decide to cuddle up and share the comfy spot.

ISBN: 1 842552 43 0

Publisher: Orion Children's Books





## RHYMES FOR ANNIE ROSE

SHIRLEY HUGHES

2 TO 5 YEARS

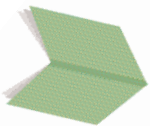
As with all books by this writer, *Rhymes for Annie Rose* is richly drawn and uses gentle and delightful language with baby Annie Rose as the main character in each poem. A great night-time read. *All Shirley Hughes tales are highly recommended.*

ISBN: 0 099464 91 8

Publisher: Red Fox

*Rhymes for Annie Rose is a book that really caught the imagination of my little girls. Full of rhymes about the everyday stories in the life of Annie Rose, it appealed because her routine is so similar to their own, as it must be for so many children. The rhymes were short, simple and almost musical when read aloud – and which they quickly tried to learn themselves, so they could chant along as I read. Beautifully presented with lovely colour drawings, the true test of a book's success – that it is demanded night after night – was achieved.*

**Matt Cooper, broadcaster and dad to three girls, Andie (5½), Aimee (3½) and Millie (21 months) and baby boy Zach born in May 2004.**



## OÍCHE MHAITH A BHEIRÍN, *Goodnight Little Bear*

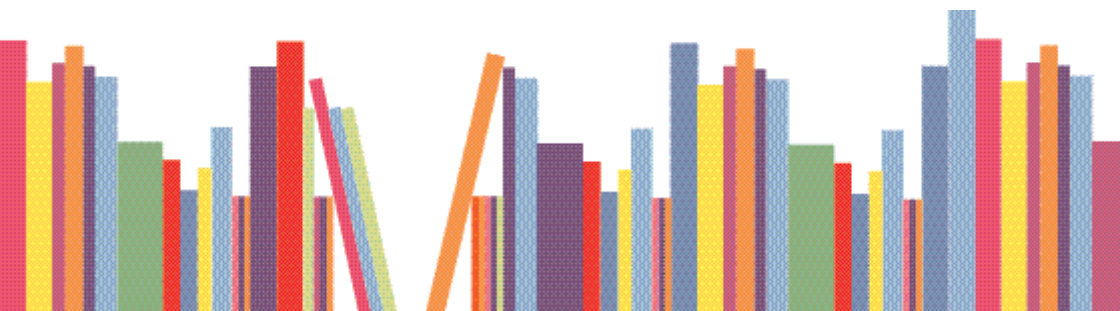
MARTIN WADDELL

5 TO 6 YEARS

Martin Waddell's beautiful and simple story is translated to Irish. The rich illustrations of the bears carry this lyrical and gentle story in any language.

ISBN: 1 857913 28 0

Publisher: An Gúm





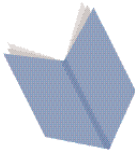
## I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

HANS WILHELM  
2 TO 6 YEARS

This beautifully told and simply drawn story about a boy whose beloved dog dies of old age is heartfelt and captures the experience of grief for all ages. An ideal book for all children as a preparation for love and loss.

ISBN: 0 517572 65 6

Publisher: Crown Publications



## MESS MONSTERS

ILLUSTRATED BY PIERS HARPER  
2 TO 4 YEARS

A fun, colourful, imaginative, humorous, well-written book for dinosaur lovers who don't like to tidy their rooms. The illustrations bring this book to life, ensuring this book is asked for again and again.

ISBN: 1 904511 78 3

Publisher: Meadowside Children's Books



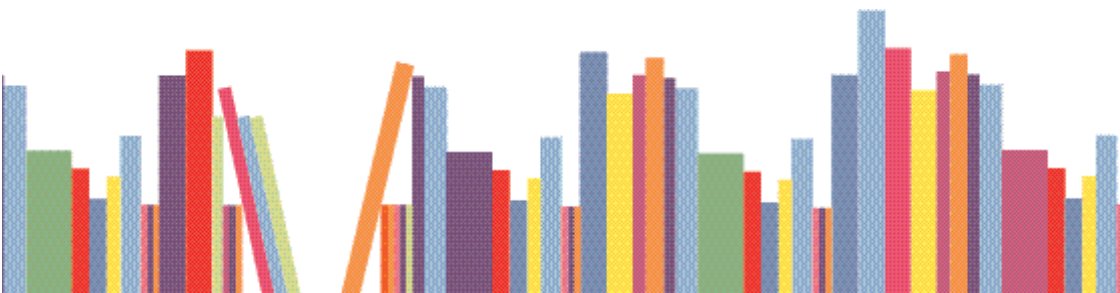
## HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOODNIGHT?

JANE YOLEN AND MARK TEAGUE  
2 TO 4 YEARS

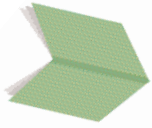
This book combines the essential elements of a great children's book: musical rhymes, bold, colourful pictures and larger than life dinosaurs. The dinosaurs are named and accurately drawn for the child and adults' benefit alike. A lovely read.

ISBN: 0 007137 28 1

Publisher: Picture Lions







## THE SMARTEST GIANT IN TOWN

JULIA DONALDSON

2 TO 4 YEARS

This is a treasure of a read encompassing the concepts of sharing, friendship, compassion and loyalty. A beautifully illustrated book whose rhythm and rhymes flow appealingly to adult and child alike.

ISBN: 0 333963 96 2

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books



## TED

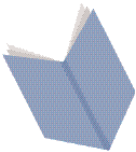
TONY DITERLIZZI

4 TO 5 YEARS

The illustrations in this book are superb. The book tells a story of a little boy and his large, pink imaginary friend. Ted and his friend get into all sorts of mischief and Ted is blamed when Dad gets cross. When the little boy goes missing Dad is worried and ends up finding a long lost toy from his own childhood. A beautifully told story that is a treasure to children and adults alike.

ISBN: 0 743489 83 7

Publisher: Simon & Schuster



## MR BEAR TO THE RESCUE

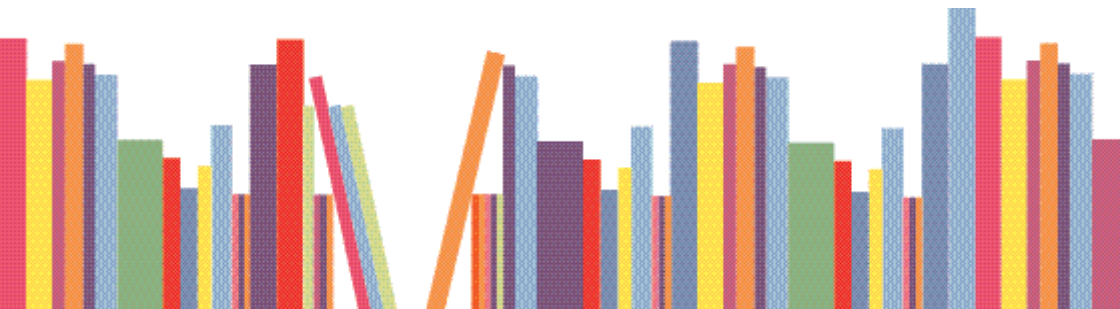
DEBI GLIORI

3 TO 5 YEARS

A well told story about a helpful bear who assists all the neighbouring animals with Mrs Bear waiting at home with her own list of home repairs. The illustrations move the story along and it is simply a joy to read.

ISBN: 0 862784 98 0

Publisher: The O'Brien Press





# THE GREAT CASTLE OF MARSHMANGLE

MALACHY DOYLE

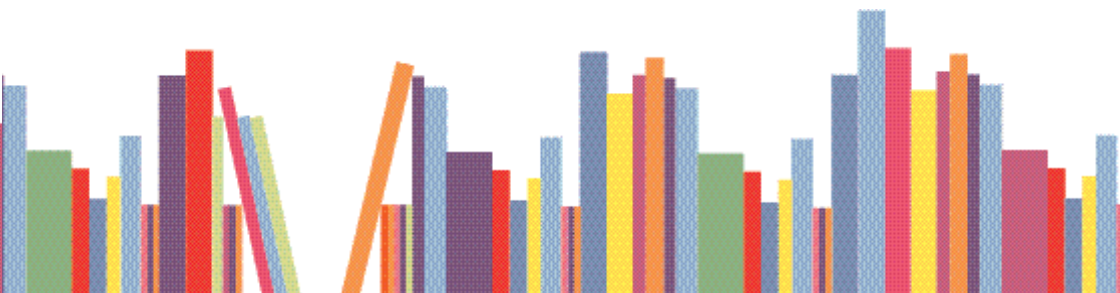
ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL HESS

4 TO 5 YEARS

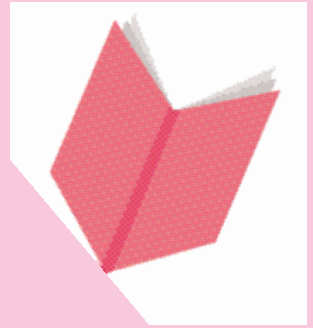
This is a unique and remarkable book whose text is a joy to read and whose illustrations are a pleasure to behold. In the story Malachy Doyle, an Irish writer, together with Paul Hess encompasses a superb mix of quirky yet musical rhymes and equally quirky illustrations that come together most successfully.

ISBN: 1 842702 15 7

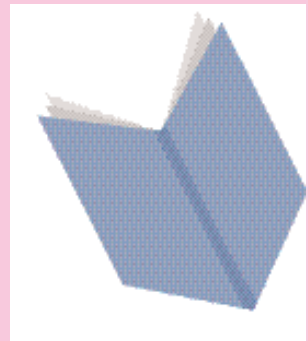
Publisher: Andersen Press



“When children are immersed in an environment where oral and written communication are valued, they have a powerful desire to master language. Children learn to talk and write and read because they want to communicate with the significant people in their lives.”



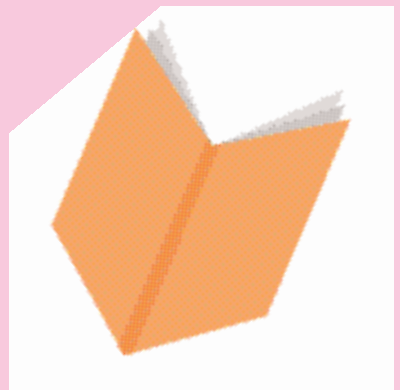
“In a climate rich in conversation and print, the complexity of children’s language will evolve naturally – at a different rate for each child.”



“Children want to communicate.”

“(The) interactions with people and materials set the stage for children to construct an understanding of talking, reading, writing – a process that begins at birth and continues to emerge throughout the preschool years.”

Hohmann and Weikart, *Educating Young Children*  
(High/Scope Press, 1995)



## HOW YOU CAN HELP BARNARDOS

### YOU CAN PLAY YOUR PART BY:

- Donating monthly by direct debit (see direct debit mandate →)
- Becoming a volunteer
- Donating goods to our shops
- Shopping at Barnardos

### WHAT A REGULAR GIFT TO BARNARDOS COULD BUY:

€7 – as little as this could buy a toy for one of our toy libraries

€25 would provide a first aid kit for a family support project

€50 would provide breakfast for a week in one of our breakfast clubs for 15 children at risk of early school leaving

Barnardos  
Christchurch Square  
Dublin 8

Tel: 01 453 0355  
Fax: 01 453 0300  
Email: [info@barnardos.ie](mailto:info@barnardos.ie)

[www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie)  
callsave 1850 222 300

Registered Charity No: 6015



**Barnardos**  
EVERY CHILDHOOD LASTS A LIFETIME

## DIRECT DEBIT FORM

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€7      €15      €21\*      €30      other € \_\_\_\_\_

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Address:

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I would like to include a donation of € \_\_\_\_\_

\* Donations to Barnardos can now go even further. Donations of €250 or over in a year (that's €21 a month or €4.85 a week) are now eligible for tax relief.

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Please complete parts 1 to 4 to instruct your bank to make payments directly from your account.

Originator's Identification Number 3 0 1 9 3 9

Originator's Reference

#### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

1. The Manager  Bank

(Full address of your bank branch)

2. Name of account holder

3. Sort Code  Account Number

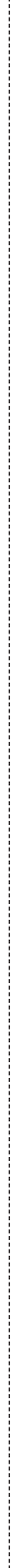
4. Your instruction to the Bank, and Signature

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Signatures(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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If you would prefer not to receive information on Barnardos in the future, please tick this box.



# ABOUT BARNARDOS

Barnardos addresses the real needs of children in Ireland. Children at risk. Children struggling to cope with bereavement. Children whose lives are affected by drug abuse, violence, illness and poverty. We believe many of these problems can and must be prevented, or tackled as soon as difficulties emerge. In our experience, most families have the strengths to cope, though these strengths may be hidden. Barnardos works to identify and to strengthen families' capacities to care for their children and to build better prospects for the future.

Barnardos exists to ensure that children's needs and rights are met and understood. We work in partnership with children, parents, families, other organisations and the general public. We know that through all of us working together we can truly make a difference to children's lives now and in the future.

## BARNARDOS ADVANCES THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN IRELAND BY:

- Providing effective services for children and families where and when they need it.
- Advocating for children's rights, the improvement of children's welfare and influencing the development of policy and provision for children.

## OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Family Support Services
- Sólás - Bereavement Counselling for Children
- Origins - Information and Tracing Service
- National Children's Resource Centre
- Beacon - Guardian ad Litem Service

For further information about Barnardos' services or how you can support Barnardos please check out [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie) or call **1850 222 300**

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