



# Little Library

First 5 Little Library at your  
Local Library

# eBulletin



# First 5 Little Library Special eBulletin



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

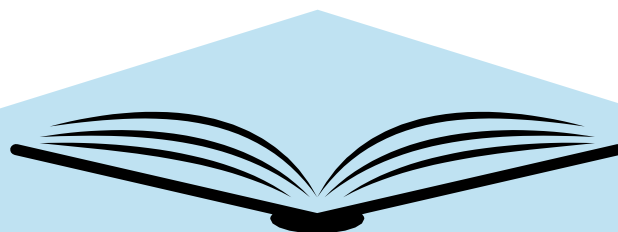
## Offer of Support to every Early Years Educator & School-Age Childcare Practitioner

Libraries have a lot to offer early years educators in early learning and care (ELC) and school-age childcare practitioners in school-age childcare (SAC) to support their very important work. Many educators and practitioners visit the library with the children on a regular basis and some connect with librarians to find particular books and stories to support individual children.

Libraries Ireland has developed its offer to ELC and SAC services. Below are the details of what every local library will now offer all ELC and SAC services and also to all childminders.

### Local Libraries offer:

- Free membership.
- A dedicated membership card for all educators, practitioners and childminders.
- Advice and support on choosing books for different age groups and abilities. Advice on setting up a library space in the ELC and SAC services, including childminders.
- Guidance on assessing your book collection.
- Group visits to your local library, by arrangement.
- Outreach visits or presentations on local library at your ELC and SAC services by arrangement.
- Spaces for stories, reading and sensory activity in the library.
- A range of reading and curriculum support materials.
- Library programmes and events for children throughout the year.
- Resources and supports for parents.



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Libraries Ireland really encourages all ELC and SAC services and childminders to take advantage of its excellent support systems in accessing stories and books from your local libraries.

To learn more, please click the links below to gain access to leaflets and videos containing more information:

- What your library can offer early years educators and school-age childcare practitioners: [bit.ly/ELCandSAC](http://bit.ly/ELCandSAC)
- What your library can offer childminders: [bit.ly/OffertoChildminders](http://bit.ly/OffertoChildminders)
- What the library offers children (for sharing with parents): [bit.ly/LotsforChildrenattheLibrary](http://bit.ly/LotsforChildrenattheLibrary)



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## Thanks for Supporting Little Library

The Little Library Initiative is an innovative way for children to gain access to the wonderful world of books. Last year, through My Little Library, nearly 60,000 children ages 4-5 received invitations through their ELC service to become members of their local library and collect a bag of books in English or Irish before they started school. Libraries encourage children to pick up a book and open their minds and imaginations into a wonderful world full of reading and learning.

My Little Library has been a fantastic opportunity to connect children with their local library and to provide access to books that will support children's learning in everyday life and the transitions that children go through such as starting school, the arrival of new siblings, sharing, discovery and so much more. Last year also saw the trial of the Little Book at Bedtime project that invited all children under 4 to pick up a free bedtime book to keep from their local library. This initiative was really well received by parents.

My Little Library aimed not only to encourage children and families develop a love of reading, but to ease them into their transition to junior infants, and to encourage them to become members of their local library, so that they can enjoy a lifetime of access to books. The numbers of young children joining the library is higher than ever before. Libraries Ireland has expressed thanks for the support from ELC services with the initiative.



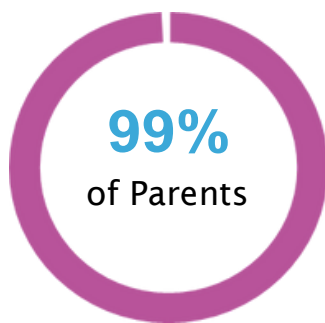
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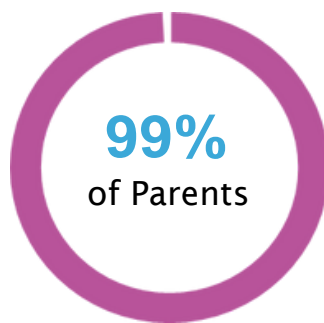
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## My Little Library Evaluation

An evaluation of My Little Library initiative has been undertaken. All 4 and 5-year-olds starting school in September 2022 received a Book Bag with storybooks and resources, aiming to ensure they had storybooks at home and became local library members. This resulted in 62,899 Book Bag pickups out of 63,500 provided. Any remaining bags are retained by libraries for future use.



Support this becoming an annual initiative.



Agree that this initiative is a good idea.



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A big thank you to our libraries who helped support this amazing initiative by providing a thirst for knowledge, joy and excitement in reading for all children aged 4-5 across the country.

