

## Press Release

24 November 2025



**An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais  
agus Comhionannais**  
Department of Children,  
Disability and Equality

### **Minister Foley announces that 40,000 young children in Ireland have benefited from 2025 Little Library Initiative**

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley has released new figures today revealing that almost 40,000 young children have benefited from the Little Library initiative this year.

Each year, every one of the 50,000 children leaving pre-school and starting primary school are invited to visit their local library to pick up a free book bag and take the opportunity to join the library as part of the My Little Library Initiative.

So far almost 40,000 young children have collected their bag and taken the opportunity to join the library if they weren't already a member. While many of them are already members of their local library, nearly 20,000 children across Ireland will join the library this year because of the My Little Library funded by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.



The books and resources in the book bag, which is available in both English and ‘as Gaeilge’, support parents and their children in the transition to primary school.

Minister Foley said:

*“I am really proud to support the My Little Library initiative for children and their families and welcome the high levels of participation all around the country.*

*“The gift of reading to and with children on a regular basis cannot be overestimated. It not only supports connection between parents and their children but also promotes early language and literacy development which is crucial for children’s success in their education journey.*

*“There is still a small number of Little Library book bags in libraires around the country for any five- and six-year-olds who have still to collect their bag. I encourage all remaining families to avail of this initiative and to join the library in the process.”*



Ireland has 330 public libraries, which are managed by the local authority in the area in which they are located. The focus of the My Little Library Initiative is to build strong links between young children, their families and their local library.

Books in the My Little Library Initiative are available in Irish and English. A glossary of the language in the Irish books is included.

A collection of resources and information is also provided in each bag. This includes a library social story card, *First 5 Guidance for Parents of Children Moving from Pre-School to Primary School*, *Dyslexia and the Younger Child* by Dyslexia Ireland and *Bookshare Ireland* by Vision Ireland.



## Notes

This initiative is an action of the Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy 2024-2033 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3f341-towards-a-new-literacy-numeracy-and-digital-literacy/>

And

The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration - National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027. <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/e6d8e-the-library-is-the-place-new-five-year-strategy-for-public-libraries-unveiled/>

The initiation is also part of First 5, which is a ten-year Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families published in 2018. This Strategy works to enhance early childhood and make a significant contribution to the lives of young children, their families and society over the short, medium and longer term. More information can be found on the First 5 website at: [www.first5.gov.ie/](http://www.first5.gov.ie/)