

Bedtime Reads Nursery Unit

Here's a comprehensive list of bedtime reads suitable for children in your Nursery Unit in Northern Ireland. These books are chosen for their gentle themes, engaging illustrations, and calming narratives—perfect for winding down at the end of the day.

Classic Bedtime Stories

- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney (a Northern Ireland author)
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell (another Northern Ireland author)

Gentle Rhyming Books

- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Time for Bed by Mem Fox
- Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale

Books About Sleep and Nighttime

- Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? by Martin Waddell
- The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton
- Sleepyhead by Karma Wilson
- Night Monkey, Day Monkey by Julia Donaldson
- Hush Little Ones by John Butler

Books with Soothing Illustrations

- Little Owl's Night by Divya Srinivasan
- The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson
- Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
- Dream Animals by Emily Winfield Martin
- The Storm Whale by Benji Davies

Interactive and Repetitive Reads

- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- That's Not My... series by Fiona Watt
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- Spot Goes to Bed by Eric Hill
- I Love You to the Moon and Back by Amelia Hepworth

Books Celebrating Love and Comfort

- I Love You Through and Through by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak
- You're All My Favourites by Sam McBratney
- I'll Always Love You by Paeony Lewis
- Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Bedtime Reads Foundation Stage

Here's a comprehensive list of bedtime reads ideal for children in **Foundation Stage** (ages 4–6). These books are selected for their calming tone, engaging illustrations, and age-appropriate themes that support early literacy and emotional development.

Soothing and Gentle Stories

- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney
- Can't You Sleep, Little Bear? by Martin Waddell
- Time for Bed by Mem Fox
- I Love You to the Moon and Back by Amelia Hepworth

Books with Repetition and Rhyme

- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
- Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

Stories About Night and Sleep

- The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton
- Little Owl's Night by Divya Srinivasan
- Night Monkey, Day Monkey by Julia Donaldson
- Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
- Hush Little Ones by John Butler

Books That Encourage Comfort and Security

- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- You're All My Favourites by Sam McBratney
- I'll Always Love You by Paeony Lewis
- Love You Forever by Robert Munsch

Interactive and Familiar Stories

- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- That's Not My... series by Fiona Watt
- Spot Goes to Bed by Eric Hill
- Ten in the Bed by Penny Dale
- Where's Spot? by Eric Hill

Books with Gentle Life Lessons

- The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson
- The Storm Whale by Benji Davies
- The Lion Inside by Rachel Bright
- The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
- Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller

Bedtime Reads for children at Key Stage One

Here's a comprehensive list of bedtime reads for children in **Key Stage One** (ages 5–7). These books are chosen for their engaging stories, emotional depth, and calming tone—perfect for winding down at the end of a busy school day.

Heartwarming and Reassuring Stories

- Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- You're All My Favourites by Sam McBratney
- I'll Always Love You by Paeony Lewis
- Love You Forever by Robert Munsch

Books with Gentle Adventure and Imagination

- The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson
- The Storm Whale by Benji Davies
- How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers
- Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
- The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers

Stories with Rhyme and Rhythm

- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- A Great Big Cuddle by Michael Rosen

Books About Friendship and Feelings

- The Lion Inside by Rachel Bright
- The Koala Who Could by Rachel Bright
- Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival
- Ravi's Roar by Tom Percival
- Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller

Books That Encourage Calm and Mindfulness

- The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
- Happy by Nicola Edwards
- I Am Peace by Susan Verde
- Slow Down by Rachel Williams
- The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

Classic and Timeless Tales

- Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne (short chapters work well for bedtime)
- Paddington by Michael Bond
- Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel
- Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik
- The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Interactive and Predictable Texts

- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- That's Not My... series by Fiona Watt
- Spot's Bedtime Storybook by Eric Hill

Bedtime Reads for Children In Key Stage Two

Here's a comprehensive list of bedtime reads for children in **Key Stage Two** (ages 7–11). These books are chosen for their rich storytelling, emotional depth, and calming tone—ideal for winding down while still engaging growing imaginations and reading skills.

Gentle Chapter Books for Bedtime

- Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson
- The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith
- The Twits by Roald Dahl
- The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy
- Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog by Jeremy Strong

Heartwarming and Uplifting Stories

- The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
- The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
- The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
- The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson

Books with Beautiful Language and Illustrations

- The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris
- The Dark by Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen
- The Fox and the Star by Coralie Bickford-Smith
- The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield
- The King Who Banned the Dark by Emily Haworth-Booth

Short Stories and Anthologies

- Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
- Aesop's Fables retold by Michael Morpurgo

- Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different by Ben Brooks
- Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World by Kate Pankhurst
- The Puffin Book of Stories for Eight-Year-Olds (and similar age-specific anthologies)

Books That Encourage Reflection and Calm

- Wonder by R. J. Palacio (selected chapters for older KS2)
- The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy
- The Invisible by Tom Percival
- The Journey by Francesca Sanna
- The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers

Poetry and Calm Reads

- A Great Big Cuddle by Michael Rosen
- I Am the Seed That Grew the Tree by Fiona Waters
- The Lost Spells by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris
- Poems to Perform edited by Julia Donaldson
- The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems