

it all starts with

a book!



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Designed by Bergen Public Library, Ragnar Rørnes and Andrea Strømmen.
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It all starts with a book: an Erasmus+ project

The project “It all starts with a book” is a small scale partnership KA210 in the field of adult education. The project aims to inspire joy from literacy activities for adult learners together with their children. The project is founded on the wish to create positive experiences with books for parents and children together, and provide learning opportunities across generations. The project’s target group has been parents with migrant background, minority language and/or low literacy.

This booklet is a presentation of activities carried out by the two partner organisations, Bergen Public Library in Norway, and Ligo centre for adult education in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Both organisations have collaborated with organisations in their community to reach new audiences and share experiences. Some of Ligo’s local partners have taken greater part in the project. These are presented after the two partner organisations. Each partner organisation has provided at least eight activities, that have been developed and tested in the project period from September 2023 to August 2025.

The two organisations work towards the same goals of literacy and participation in sustainable communities. Yet, the organisation of our work is very different. Bergen Public Library has the target group as a part of a large audience, while Ligo has sole focus on adults with low literacy. The library invites all members of society to participate in activities when, if and as often as they prefer, whereas Ligo has long-term contact with the same group of participants, all in the target group. While differences exist, our challenges and goals align, and both organisations have found strong inspiration in each other’s work.

We hope that this booklet will provide other organisations with ideas and inspiration to carry out literacy activities for parents and children together. Although the activities have been carried out in a specific context, we strongly believe that they can serve as inspiration for any organisation working with adult education and children.



Norwegian partner organisation: Bergen Public Library



Bergen Public Library is Norway's second largest Public Library, and the most visited cultural institution in Bergen with more than 1,1 million yearly visitors. The library was founded in 1872, and consists today of 9 branch libraries across Bergen's boroughs and two prison libraries, as well as the main library in the city centre. Among the branches are two combination libraries (school and public library) and one children's library.



Bergen Public library holds more than 400.000 materials, including gaming consoles, board games, musical instruments, seeds, digital learning tools etc. The library also has a wide range of equipment for patrons to use in the library, such as 3D-printers, laser cutters and sewing machines.

As of the Norwegian Library act of 2014, the public libraries in Norway have the important role as independent meeting places and arenas for public discussion and debate.

The library has chosen four of the United Nations Sustainability Goals (right), as essential to fulfilling the tasks given by the Library act. For the years 2024-2025, Bergen Public Library has the following focus areas:

- Provide equal opportunities for participation and promote diversity in our target groups.
- Counteract social exclusion and discrimination.
- Promote interest in culture and literature in children and youth.
- Promote public information, insight and understanding.
- Strengthen the library's role as a local public arena and meeting place.

The library staff is organised in teams focused on different aspects of the running of the library. One of these is the Team for Inclusion, working towards strengthening inclusion for immigrants, non-users, people with low literacy and minority language speakers. The team has responsibility for the collections of books and other materials aimed at these groups, as well as activities and projects for these groups. The team works continuously to develop new activities to promote inclusion in the library. This is the background for Bergen Public Library initiating the It all starts with a book Project.

Outreach

The library aims to reach Bergen's general public. All library events are free to attend. Most events are open to the general public, marketed through the library's web page, social media channels and posters in and around the libraries. Some events are in collaboration with other organisations, such as the Red Cross.

One of the focus areas of this project, has been to establish new partnerships and collaborations with organisations working with low-literacy families. Throughout the project period, the library has explored different ways of doing outreach work in collaboration with these organisations. These include hosting the library's activities in the organisation's premises, asking key persons in the community to spread the word, as well as inviting families to early-bird sign-up through the organisation's usual channels of communication.

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Belgian partner organisation: Ligo Bruges-Ostend-West Corner

Ligo Bruges-Ostend-West Corner is one of the 13 approved Ligo-organisations in Flanders (Ministry of education and training). All 13 are structured in a network under the same umbrella organisation.

Ligo organises education and training for low-literate adults. Our goal is to make our students more self-reliant and independent so they can function and participate independently in society. Courses include:

- Dutch (as a foreign language, but also for those who have Dutch as their native language)
- Basic French/English
- Basic mathematics
- Basic digital skills
- All kinds of social-relevant-topics, such as health, managing your economy, housekeeping, forms, theory for getting a drivers licence etc.

Ligo has 3 key concepts:

Learning: 18% of adults in Flanders and Brussels have difficulty with reading, writing, mathematics or digital applications. These are important skills to participate in society. Ligo offers useful customized courses.

Connecting: We prefer to do this in collaboration with partner organisations, to reach adults in their everyday environment: at their workplace or training, their child's school, the neighbourhood etc.

Strengthening: Ligo strengthens trainees in the roles they take on: employee, parent, consumer, citizen, etc. This allows them to increase their opportunities in the changing, digitised society.

The daily learning needs of our students are our starting point. Our courses are functional: what trainees learn, they can use every day. We make the connection to life outside the classroom.

Ligo works in an integrated way: we strengthen both the digital, numerical and communication skills of our trainees. Together with learning skills, they form the connection between our services, because in everyday life, trainees also use several skills simultaneously. We also work on key competencies. These are essential skills a person needs to fully participate in society; self-reliance, communication, working in team, citizenship etc.

Outreach

“If trainees do not find us, we go to the trainees.” Ligo seeks out the target groups and develops a functional learning offer tailored to their daily lives. By working together with other partners in the community, we can better reach and empower our priority, vulnerable populations in their roles as job seekers, as workers, as parents, as consumers and as citizens.

A partner’s context is an authentic context for the learner: their work or training floor, their children’s school, the neighborhood, the local (poverty) association, the library etc. Here we organize an offer that starts from the needs that the target group experiences. What trainees learn here, they can immediately practice in this context and apply. With this functional and integrated tailor-made approach, we achieve strong learning outcomes.



In every form of partnership, we are committed to strong partner management. This means that we approach partnerships consciously, actively, systematically and strategically, based on four core principles:

- Continuous networking and broad awareness.
- Sustainability of collaborations through monitoring, evaluation and optimization.
- Investing in collaborations through time, vision and resources.
- Reciprocal relationships that enable customised collaboration.

Local partners in Belgium



Huis van het Kind Poperinge-Vleteren

Huis van het Kind Poperinge-Vleteren is a warm and welcoming hub where families, children and young people can find guidance, support and information. We are a collaboration of local partners who work together to promote the well-being and development of children and their families, from pregnancy through adolescence. Our mission is to help every child grow up happy, healthy, and safe.

We are here for all parenting questions and challenges. We offer free advice, workshops, activities and access to professional services tailored to the needs of the family.

In addition, we offer several practical services for families:

- A swapstore for exchanging children's clothes and items, promoting sustainability and affordability.
- The babytheek, a lending service where you can borrow baby gear for a short time.
- The speelotheek, which gives access to a wide variety of toys.
- “Babbels, leren en spelen”, where parents can talk to a professional but they can also connect with other people.
- “Klein Avontuur”, playing environments for little explorers to discover the world around them. It's also a moment where we pay attention to language and connection.

Together, we support families and build a caring, child-friendly community.

Libraries of Ypres and Poperinge

The libraries of Ypres and Poperinge are located in the Westhoek region, the southwesternmost part of Belgium. The distance between the two cities is approximately 12 kilometers.

Ypres has around 35,000 inhabitants. The city hosts a central library, two branch locations and a prison library. We have around 10,000 active members and welcome between 500 and 900 visitors daily at the central library. Our team consists of 13 staff members and 40 dedicated volunteers. Recently, we reorganized our entire collection and integrated our toy library ('spelotheek') into the main building.

Library Poperinge-Vleteren is a cooperation of two communities (Poperinge & Vleteren) Combined there are about 24,000 inhabitants. Poperinge hosts a central library and 7 branch locations.

The library is an open and accessible meeting place, where every citizen can come with questions about knowledge, culture, information and entertainment. Informed citizens contribute to a tolerant society.

The library helps everyone to develop literacy in the broad sense. The library promotes reading pleasure and a vibrant reading culture, as a basis for all forms of learning. The library encourages digital, social and cultural inclusion, with a special focus on education, youth and hard-to-reach groups.

The library operates in a low-threshold, topical and unbounded manner with its collection, services and catalogue of activities.





The library of Bruges

The Public Library of Bruges actively promotes reading for all ages. From picture books for toddlers to profound literature for adults, the library fosters reading enjoyment and supports literacy in the broadest sense. With accessible knowledge, culture, and information, it provides an inspiring environment where everyone is welcome. The library nurtures a

vibrant reading and learning culture and contributes to digital, social, and cultural inclusion, always respecting diverse perspectives.

In addition, the library pays special attention to non-native speakers. Through initiatives such as guided tours, language-stimulating activities, and Samen Spel (Playing Together), it offers a supportive environment where multilingual families feel welcome and encouraged. Specific programs for multilingual parents help them guide their children in developing language skills and the joy of reading. This way, the library fosters an inclusive community where everyone, regardless of linguistic background, can discover and embrace the power of reading.

As a heritage library, it preserves and manages a rich historical collection with a focus on Brugge's (book) history and literature. This enhances knowledge development, interaction, and creativity, encouraging active engagement with the past while keeping an eye on the future. Moreover, the library serves as a warm and connecting space within society—a welcoming public living room where people gather, grow personally, and share experiences and skills. Through this, the Public Library Brugge contributes to an evolving and inclusive society where language and culture bring people together.

The library of Ostend

The library of Ostend is celebrating 25 years at its current location. The library has long since ceased to be a silent temple of books; it is a meeting place for all ages, where knowledge, creativity and development are central.

The library of Ostend offers a wide range of services and materials for all ages. In addition to books, magazines, DVDs and CDs, the library also offers access to computers and the internet, courses and workshops, and an exhibition space.

Main services and offerings:

Collection: The library has an extensive collection of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and other media, both physical and digital.

Digital services: There is free internet access, and the option to print, copy and scan.

My Library: Members can create a personal account to renew materials online, place reservations and view their lending history.

Biblab: The library has a Biblab with materials and workshops around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics),

intended for children, schools and families.

Studying: The library offers quiet reading rooms and public spaces where students can study.

Exhibition space: There is an exhibition space that is available for organising exhibitions by associations and artists.

Events and activities: The library regularly organises lectures, workshops and other events for young and old.



Activities for families with children ages 0–6



Familieles (Family Reading)

Target age group: Parents and children aged 0-3.

Time frame: 30 minutes.

Participants: max 20 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: Area with playmats where parents and children can sit, with room enough to play after the reading of the book.

Required personnel: 1-2.

Equipment: Projector/tv-screen or other device to show the book. Figurines, silk scarves, bubbles or other elements suitable for the chosen book.

Description of the activity: This has become one of the library's main programme events for families with small children. The librarian reads books for parents and children together, combined with songs, rhymes and movement. Some have also used a reading choir where every parent has their own copy of the book, and reads aloud for their own child in a choir with the other participants.



The activity aims to inspire parents to read to their children from an early age, as many tend to wait until language development has begun.

Recommended books for the activity: *Oh! - en bok som lager lyd* by Heve Tullet, *Det går bra, lille krabbe* by Chris Haughton, *Bø og Bæ i vinden* by Olof and Lena Landström, *Farger med dyrene* av Nicolas Illic.

Which organizations tried the activity: Bergen Public Library.



Collaborators: Hosted in 5 open kindergartens, Bergen Inkluderingsenter, Liten i Loddefjord and in the municipal pavillion in Nygårdsparken park.



Familieles



Speel mee met je kind (Play together with your child)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 3-6.

Time frame: 2,5-3 hours. A series of 4 events, the same participants meet 4 times.

Participants: 6-10 children with their parent/parents.

Space/room requirements:

a classroom large enough for the participants.

Required personnel: 1 is sufficient, but if there are a lot of younger children than the target group it is handy to have another person to assist.

Equipment: Games, puzzles and picture books in Dutch, another language and/or wordless books.



Description of the activity: Parents are being taught to play games with their toddlers and small children. They are also being taught how to read for their children, either in Dutch or their mother tongue.

This activity focuses both on parents who are literate and parents who are low literate. It is possible for low literate parents to read for their children if the book has simple language, little text or no text at all. When there's no text at all, the parent is being encouraged to simply tell a story based on the pictures and drawings in the books. The participants are students at Ligo's other courses, and *speel mee met je kind* is a voluntary extra course. The same group meets several times, providing a safe and social environment.

Recommended books for the activity:

Wordless picturebooks such as *Reis naar de maan* by John Hare, *Overdag is hij een krokodil* by Giovanna Zoboli, *Mijn Tak!* by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and *De Grote Hond* by Andrea Hensgenn.

Which organisations tried the activity: Ligo.

Collaborators : Several schools in Oostende.

Speel mee met je kind



Språklek (Language playtime) in open kindergarten

Target age group: Parents and children aged 0-3.

Time frame: 30 minutes.

Participants: max 20 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: Area with playmats where parents and children can sit, large enough for the number of participants.

Required personnel: 1-2.

Equipment: Egg shakers, silk scarves, figurines or other elements suitable for the songs and nursery rhymes chosen, song cards.

Description of the activity: We sing songs together with the parents and children. The songs can be in different languages. We focus on songs and nursery rhymes with movements so it's easy to involve children and parents. We sing each song at least two times and some songs are used every time we host the activity. The parents learn the songs and rhymes, and are inspired to use them at home. After singing together we bring out toys that the children and parents can play with, and books that the parents can read with their children.



Recommended books for the activity:

Board books in different languages, if possible in the native languages of the participants.

Which organizations tried the activity:

Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: This is an activity that Bergen public library had at our different branches before the project started. During the project period, we started hosting it outside the libraries, at 3 different open kindergartens.



Språklek in open kindergarten



Tik Tak

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 0-6.

Time frame: approximately 30 min.

Participants: Max 15 in total, mothers learning a second language, together with their children.

Space/room requirements: a space that has a table, a place to sit and an extra table for crafting.

Required personnel: 2

Equipment: Tik Tak-house (see pictures), sound amplifier, objects according to the choice of the TIKTAK songs, a picture book and crafting materials.

Description of the activity: The Tik Tak is a performance lead by an adult who communicates without spoken word. The performance starts with the Tik Tak-house (4 items). After a row of sheep, an object appears that refers to the chosen picture book. Following is a sequence of short,



concrete activities using objects, pictures and graphic elements. The activities are accompanied by music that has been carefully synchronized with each activity to guide transitions, set the pace, and reinforce the structure of the session. The music acts as a non-verbal narrator, supporting

children's understanding and participation without the need for spoken instructions. Tik Tak is especially beneficial in multilingual groups, promoting language development and concentration through visual and rhythmic structure.

After the Tik Tak performance, we read the chosen picture book together, and do a crafts activity that fits the book.

Recommended books for the activity: *Het ei van Bommes* by Jane Simmons, or other picture books appropriate for the age group.

Which organisations tried the activity: Ligo.



Tik Tak



Sleepover for stuffed animals

Target age group:

Parents and children 2-8 years old.

Time frame: 60-90 minutes + follow up.

Participants: max. 15 children with their adults.

Space/room requirements: a space suitable for reading aloud with room for all participants, plus a space with tables and seats for everyone.

Required personnel: 2.

Equipment: Projector/tv-screen or other device to show the book. Hammock or other sleeping arrangement for the stuffed animals. Yoghurt, fruit and cereal or other suitable foods.

Description of the activity: The library invites children to bring their stuffed animals to a sleepover in the library. When the families arrive,



the librarian reads a picture book for parents, children and stuffed animals together. Then we eat supper together, before the children put their animals to bed in the hammock in the children's section. The families leave, while the stuffed animals spend the night. When they collect them the next day, each stuffed animal has a "memory book", a 4 page-leaflet with pictures and (short) text showing all the fun things they did during the night (as shown in the bottom right photo). The stuffed animal has also borrowed a book for their child to bring home, to inspire the parents to continue the reading at home.

Recommended books for the activity:

Stjernetryvnen by Nora Brech, *God natt alle sammen* by Chris Houghton, other books about going to sleep.

Which organizations tried the activity:

Bergen Public Library.

Kosedyrovernatting



Miniboekenklasje (Mini book class)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 2-4.

Time frame: 1 hour. Series of 4 events.

Participants: Around 10 children with parents and sometimes grandparents.

**Space/room requirements:**

a classroom large enough for the participants.

Required personnel: 1.

Equipment: Drawing and craft equipment. The books chosen for the activity.

Description of the activity: Over the course of four events, the librarian reads a total of six books aloud to the children and their parents, typically one or two books per session. After each reading the participants discuss the story together. At the end of the series of events the children and their parent(s) rank the books based on what their favorites are.

After reading and discussing, the participants craft something together based on the story they have just listened to.

Example of event: The book has sadness and grief as a theme. The emotions are discussed and explored by the group using drawings of people

who are sad, asking if the children and their parents are sad sometimes, and how they deal with that. The creative activity that follows could be acting out different ways in which you can comfort someone who is sad. This can be done by playing, or using dolls and toys.

Recommended books for the activity:

Een ijsbeer in de sneeuw by Mac Barnett,
Het boek van Pip by Guido Van Genechten,
Het nummer één telboek by Caspar Salmon,
Kijk nou taart by Jonathan McKee and
Hidde huult by Sara Grimsberg.

Which organisations tried the activity:

Library of Ypres.

Collaborators: Leesjury.

Miniboekenklasje



Litterært lekemiljø (Literary play environment)

Target age group: Parents and children aged 0-3.

Time frame: From 30 min to an hour, spread across several weeks.

Participants: max 30 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: A space suitable for a play environment that children can discover in their own time, that can be converted for reading to a large group of parents and children.

Required personnel: 1-2.

Equipment: Age appropriate toys and sensory materials related to a chosen book.

Description of the activity: Liten i Loddefjord is a weekly meeting place for families with small children, hosted at the library. The librarian joins every few weeks to read to the families.



Every week Liten i Loddefjord arrange a play environment based on the next book to be read in a separate area. The children play, sense and get familiar with the feeling of the book. At the same time they practice key words from the story together with their parents, both in Norwegian and their mother tongue. When the librarian reads the book, the children and parents are taken back into an atmosphere they have already been in several times and are familiar with, thus enforcing the language learning.

Recommended books for the activity: *Oh! En bok som lager lyd* by Heve Tullet, *Det går bra, lille krabbe* by Chris Haughton, *Farger med dyrene* by Nikolas Ilic.

Which organizations tried the activity:
Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: “Fantasifantasten” and the meeting place “Liten i Loddefjord”.



**Litterært
lekemiljø**



Leer de bib kennen samen met Ligo (Get to know the library)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 0-6.

Time frame: 2,5 hours.

Participants: Max 10 adults with their children.

Space/room requirements:

The library and a separate room.

Required personnel: 1 person from Ligo, 1 from the library and 1 volunteer.

Description of the activity: The goal of this activity is for parents and their young children to get to know what the library offers. Meaning not only the books but also activities involving reading aloud in Dutch and other languages, storytelling, picture books, digital activities, kamishibai (Japanese paper theatre). These are activities in which both parents and children can participate.



Ideally this will motivate the parents to keep on visiting the library and make use of the many things it has to offer.

This activity was established because Ligo noticed that despite often organising visits to the library with the students (many of them are parents),

they did not continue going. This activity serves as an extra reminder of what the library has to offer and it being beneficial to both the parent and the child.

During every activity there's some time to talk about the practicalities of what the library has to offer: becoming a member (which is free), what kind of activities are offered, and benefits of reading (cognitive and emotional).

Recommended books for the activity:

Dit is mijn papa! by Mies Van Hout, *Waar is Momo?* and *Zoek Momo* by Andrew Knapp, *De mooiste vis van de zee* by Marcus Pfister and *Steve de schrik van de zee* by Melani Le Bris.

Which organisations tried the activity:

Ligo and the Library of Oostende.

**Leer de bib kennen
samen met Ligo**



Activities for families with children ages 7-12



Sphero - kom og lek! (Sphero - come and play!)

Target age group: Parents and children aged 7–12.

Time frame: 1 hour.

Participants: max 20 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: 2 rooms/areas, large enough for the two workshops.

Required personnel: 2.

Equipment: Sphero robot (You can also paint without it), Yellow, red and blue paint and silk paper. A roll of paper and paper carton. Lego bricks to make borders for the robot. Black marker.

Description of the activity: The librarian reads a book, where the parents are children are encouraged to participate through movement and



sounds. We then have two different workshops. In one of them we use the robot sphero with paint and create a large painting together. Use of the robot Sphero gives adults and children the opportunity to use computational thinking. If you do not have sphero you can do it with paintbrushes etc. In the other workshop they make a picture with silk paper inspired by the illustrations in the book. This can also be done as a parallel activity for younger siblings.

Recommended books for the activity:

Books by Hervé Tullet: *Kom og lek!* and *Trykk her*, or other books with colorful illustrations and text that encourage involvement by the reader.

Which organizations tried the activity: Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: Bamsehiet at Kirkens bymisjon (Church city mission's family meeting place).

**Sphero -
kom og lek!**



Brugge leest in het bos (Bruges reads in the forest)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 6-12.

Time frame: 3 hours.**Participants:** No maximum number of participants.**Space/room requirements:**

A forest with suitable areas for reading aloud, reading alone and doing crafts.

Required personnel: 1 person from the library and 1 volunteer.

Equipment: storyboards, kamishibai (Japanese paper theatre), craft materials like feathers and ribbons, chairs and blankets, drinks.

Description of the activity: The library of Bruges and Beisbroek Nature Center invite parents and their children to read in the forest.



The 2 organizations make sure everyone can sit comfortably in the forest and have a drink. The parents can bring their own books if they wish, or enjoy the activities together with their children.

These involve reading aloud, kamishibai based on the book “Vos en zoon” and crafting a fox tail.

Both happen on the same domain, meaning that the parents can see their children, but a little bit of a distance is kept so that the parents who do choose to read won't be disturbed by the noise of the activities of the children.

Recommended books for the activity:

Vos en zoon by Paddy Donnelley.

Which organisations tried the activity:

The library of Bruges.

Collaborators: Natuurcentrum Beisbroek.



**Brugge leest
in het bos**



Refleksverksted og høytlesing (Reflector workshop and reading)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 7-12.

Time frame: 1-1,5 hours.

Participants: max 20 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements:

a room with tables for the activity, and an area suitable for reading to the large group.

Required personnel: 1-2.

Equipment: For reflectors: reflective vinyl foil, hard plastic, double taped plastic foil, templates or cookie cutters, sharpie markers.

For iron patches: Glow in the dark or reflective vinyl foil, vinyl cutter, flat-iron, the participants can bring clothes that they want to upcycle.

Description of the activity: The librarian first



reads a book that suits the theme. We then have two parallel workshops; reflector keychains and vinyl cut reflector patches for clothes. Norway has very little daylight in the autumn and winter months. Reflectors are therefore considered essential safety equipment for everyday use.

Reflector: The reflector is made by attaching

reflective vinyl foil to a stiff plastic sheet, using a double sided adhesive sheet. The materials can be cut into the desired shape using scissors, and decorated using sharpie markers. Use templates/cookie cutters or have participants create their own shape. The reflector is then connected to a key chain using a hole punch and thread or a chain. The keychain can also be decorated using beads.

Vinyl cut reflector patches: In advance of the workshop, you can create printable files for the vinyl cutter or the participants can make this themselves. If you don't have a vinyl cutter, participants can cut the foil with scissors in the desired shape. The patch is ironed onto the garment using a flat-iron.

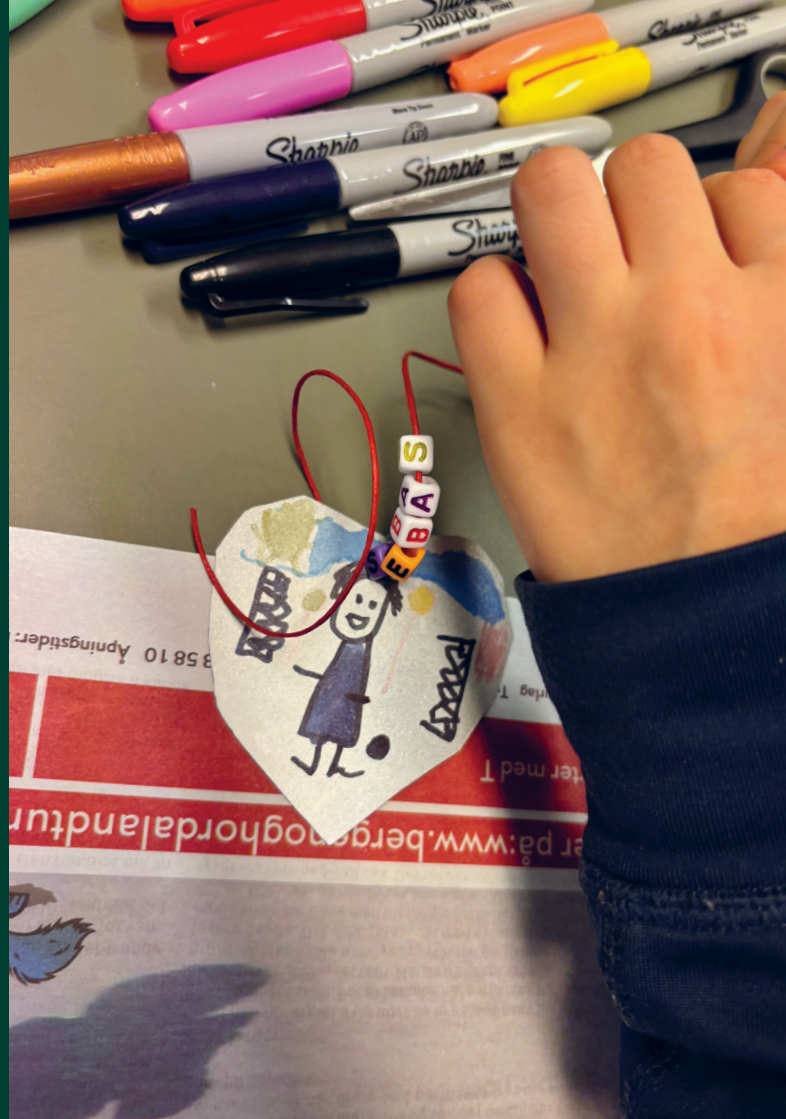
Recommended books for the activity:

Nattsvermerne av Sunniva Sunde Krogseth or other books about night or darkness.

Which organizations tried the activity:

Bergen Public Library.

Refleksverksted og høytlesing



Taalofenkansen (Language practice opportunities)

Target age group:

Children in the 1st and 2nd year of elementary school and their parents.

Time frame: 1 hour, weekly events for a month.

Participants: Depending on the number of volunteers.

Space/room requirements:

2 rooms.

Required personnel: Ideally 1 volunteer can assist 2 children or 2 adults.

Equipment: Beginner-level books for children learning how to read, text for the adult program. Easy and fun board games.

Description of the activity: This activity aims to create second language practice opportunities for



children and their parent(s). The children and their parents are stimulated to learn the language by practicing reading aloud (first half hour, children and adults separately) and by playing games all together (last half hour).

The activity is open to anyone wanting to improve their Dutch reading skills. There is an introductory session for participants wanting to see whether the level is right for them.

Recommended books for the activity:

Beginner-level books for children learning how to read chosen by the children themselves or the staff. Texts for the adult programme are provided by the library.

Which organisations tried the activity:

The library of Oostende.

Collaborators: Participants are invited when visiting the Library with Ligo. The activity is also mentioned in a leaflet of language practice activities, issued by the city of Oostende.



Taalofenkansen

Familieettermiddag med jazz, høytlesing og kveldskos (Jazzy family afternoon)



Target age group: Parents and children aged 7–12.

Time frame: 1 hour.

Participants: max 15 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: A room with a projector or screen, large enough for both a reading with an audience and tables for socialising and eating.

Required personnel: 2, one bilingual.

Equipment: Digitalised book, record player, music record from the artist the book is about and suitable foods, in this case freshly made waffles.

Description of the activity: As participants arrive, jazz music is playing in the background and the room smells of newly made waffles. The librarians read the book, one in Norwegian and

one in Turkish (own translation). After reading, the sound of the record player fills the room once more as participants are invited to have a waffle and socialise. By serving food and playing music after the reading, we facilitate informal conversation with an open end, making participation low threshold. The bilingual reading opens up for new conversations and language development for all participants, both adults and children.

Recommended books for the activity:

The illustrated biography *Små folk, store drømmer: Ella Fitzgerald* by Ma Isabel Sánchez Vergara. Other books in the Little people, big dreams series could be used for different music genres. The concept could be expanded by combining for instance fairy tales with suitable classical music.

Which organizations tried the activity:

Bergen Public Library.

**Familieettermiddag
med jazz, høytlesing og
kveldskos**



Verhalenkop (A head full of stories)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 7-12.

Time frame: 20 minutes.

Participants: no limit.

Space/room requirements:

Anywhere that has space for a table.

Required personnel: 1 staff member, 1 volunteer.

Equipment: Old picture books, glue, colored cardboard.

Description of the activity: The children rip images out of the old books and use them to make portraits of their parents or grandparents. Like that they create mini artworks.



These artworks are being presented in the library so that the kids and their (grand)parents can come and see them. Children can collect their artworks at the library later.

Recommended books for the activity:

Any discarded illustrated books that the library can't lend out anymore.

Which organisations tried the activity:

Ligo together with the library of Poperinge. Inspired by a project activity the group attended at Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: The activity has been organised for the first time on the "Gezinsmarkt" ("Family market") which is organized by Huis van het Kind. Every child of the age group and parent that visited the Gezinsmarkt was able to take part in this activity.



Verhalenkop



Tøyfiks og bøker (Clothes repair and books)



Target age group: Parents and children aged 6–12.

Time frame: 1,5-2 hours.

Participants: max 15 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: A room with a decent-sized table and access to electricity.

Required personnel: 1-2 (confident sewers).

Equipment: Sewing machine, needles for hand sewing, paper and scissors, ribbon, lace and an assorted selection of thread. Textile scraps are great to have available for repairing clothes and great for making new products, such as small wallets and/or bags, etc.

Description of the activity: Repair, redesign & upgrading workshop, based on literature and books about upgrading and repairing of clothes/ textiles. Instructions for patching clothes and putting in zippers, etc.

The event begins with a presentation of current literature. The participants bring discarded clothes, leftover fabric or damaged textiles. With the help of literature and with the support of an employee, they discuss and come up with good ideas themselves and carry out repairs or redesigns of the textiles. In this way, parents and children get the opportunity to practice formal, technical

language together, at the same time as learning new skills.

Recommended books for the activity: *Gøy med tøy!* Ta vare på det du har by Evy Hillestad, *Visible Mending* by Arounna Khounnoraj. *Fiks det!* by Norges Husflidslag. *Fiks ferdig!* by Marie Årslund Bruce. *Beyond darning* by Hikaru Noguchi.

Which organizations tried the activity: Bergen Public Library.



Tøyfiks og bøker



Open lab: kennismaking met STEM activiteiten en verhalen (introduction to STEM activities and stories)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 6-12.

Time frame: Approx. 30 minutes, once per month.

Participants: 15-20 children and their parents.

Space/room requirements:

a room large enough for the participants.

Required personnel: 1.

Equipment: Depending on the activities, different tools are needed. The goal is for the tools to be freely available for everyone so that the families can do what they have learned at the library at home too. These tools are free apps, websites etc, including: Inkscape (digital drawing), Tinkercad (digital 3D drawing), Stop Motion Studio (stop motion).

Description of the activity: An introduction

to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at the library in Poperinge designed to be as accessible as possible. There is no need to sign up, and everyone can enter and participate as they wish.



An example of an activity which has been organised is making comic books with A.I. Another example involves travelling back to the time of the dinosaurs by using virtual reality.

Recommended books for the activity:

Frank en Bert. by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros, *Prinses Arabella in het museum* by Mylo Freeman and *Suzie Ruzie in het diepe* by Jaap Robben.

Which organisations tried the activity:

Library of Poperinge.

**Kennismaking met STEM
activiteiten en verhalen**



Activities for families with children ages 0-12



På fuglejakt (Literary bird hunt)



Target age group: Families with children aged 0-12.

Time frame: 1-1,5 hours.

Participants: 20 (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: Two rooms, one with a large floor space, and the other with a long table with space for 12 children and adults.

Required personnel: 2, one for each group.

Equipment: For the bookmark: Felt, glue, paper clips, feathers and textile markers.
For the bird hunt: BluBot robot, laminated pictures of birds glued to wooden blocks.

Description of the activity: We read the book together, then divide the children into groups according to age. Inspired by the book, the youngest children make their own bookmark together with their parents.

The oldest children will find birds hidden in the room and retrieve them with the help of the robot BlueBot. Using BlueBot gives adults and children the opportunity to practice computational thinking.

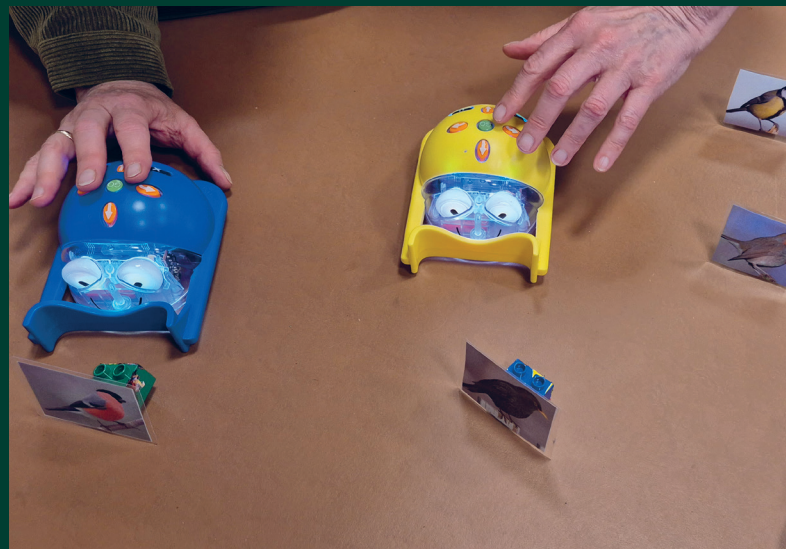
Recommended books for the activity: *Den store fuglejakten* by Nora Brech.

Which organizations tried the activity:
Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: Kirkens Bymisjon - Bamsehiet.



**På fuglejakt
(literary bird hunt)**



LitteraTUR (hiking with literature)

Target age group: Parents with children aged 0-12.

Time frame: 2-3 hours.

Participants: Number depending on area and equipment available.

Space/room requirements: Outdoor area with a campfire pit and space for the chosen activities.

Required personnel: 3+

Equipment: Fire wood, seating pads, gas burner

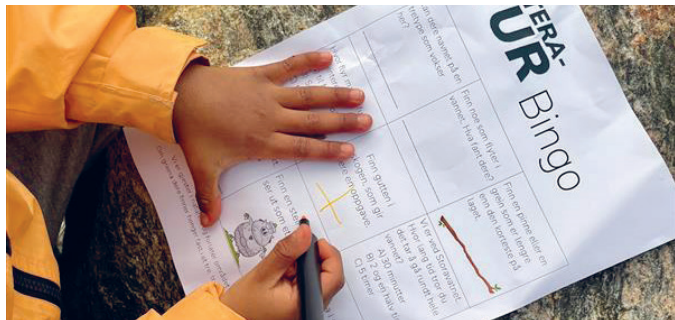
stove (1 per 4-5 participants), meal ingredients, plates and cutlery.

Description of the activity: The library invited families in the area to join a hike in the neighbourhood. We met up at the library, and walked together to our destination. Upon arrival, one of the librarians read a picture book to the families seated around the fire. After a quick demonstration, the participants made a simple meal on the gas stove (see suggested recipes in the book list). We finished with a nature bingo where the participants looked for items in nature, such as “find a rock that looks like a troll”.

Recommended books for the activity: Picture books with an outdoor theme, such as *Rasken rydder* by Emily Gravett.

Which organizations tried the activity: Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: Bergen og omegn frilager provided the camping equipment.





LitteraTUR



Les en bok, så et frø (Read a book, sow a seed)

Target age group: Parents and children aged 0–12.

Time frame: 1-1,5 hours.

Participants: max 20 in total (adults and children).

Space/room requirements: a room with a long table with space for 20 children and adults.

Required personnel: 2.

Equipment: Digitalized book, projector and screen. For the plant pot: empty milk cartons, discarded picture books, scissors and glue. Soil and seeds for edible plants.

Description of the activity: We gather, and the librarian reads the book. The book has been digitalised in advance and we use a projector and screen so that the children and parents can



follow along. Then everyone, both parents and children, get an empty milk carton (top removed). On the table are many discarded picture books that everyone can cut out motifs from to decorate their carton. Then they fill the carton with soil and sow seeds in it. Afterwards, the families can take the plant pot home and watch the germination throughout the summer and eat what they have grown.

Recommended books for the activity:

Stjernetyven by Nora Brech or other books about seeds and/or sewing.

Which organizations tried the activity: Bergen Public Library.

Collaborators: Kirkens Bymisjon- Bamsehiet.

**Les en bok, så et frø
(Read a book, sow a seed)**



Voorleesmoment met activiteit

(Reading aloud paired with an activity)

Target age group:

Parents and children aged 0-12.

Time frame: 1 hour.

Participants: 10-15 children and their parents.

Space/room requirements:

a room large enough for the participants.

Required personnel: 1-2 for reading aloud and 2 for the activity.

Equipment: Children's book, equipment for the chosen activity.

Description of the activity: Voorleesmoment usually involves a librarian reading a book aloud for a group of children and their parents



or grandparents. When collaborating with De Lovie VZW, the librarian is joined by a reader who has a disability to promote inclusion. The goal of voorleesmoment is to stimulate parents and their children to do this at home too, as it has a lot of social and cognitive benefits. After the reading, the children and their parents can engage in an activity organized by the library, or De Lovie VZW when the activity is done in collaboration. These activities involve crafting, cooking, sculpting little statues all based on the book that has been read.

Recommended books for the activity:

Frank en Bert. by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros, *Prinses Arabella in het museum* by Mylo Freeman and Suzie Ruzie *in het diepe* by Jaap Robben.

Which organisations tried the activity:

The Library of Poperinge.

Which organisations tried the activity:

De Lovie VZW.

**Voorleesmoment
met activiteit**



Collaborators

The partners have collaborated with local organisations in organising project activities. The organisations mentioned in the activity texts are presented in the list below.

NO Bamsehiet, Kirkens bymisjon

Bamsehiet is the Church City Mission's open and inclusive meeting place for families with children aged 4-12. The families always have dinner together, before participating in a variety of activities.

NO Bergen Frilager

A provider of outdoor equipment for volunteers, schools, teams and organisations that organize free group activities.

NO Bergen Inkluderingscenter

Established in 2024, the Inclusion centre gathers services such as the introduction centre for refugees in Bergen, as well as several adult education institutions. The centre also has facilities for sports, culture and a canteen, and aims to function as a meeting place in the community.

BE De Leesjury

The Reading Jury is a reading club for children and young people aged 4-18. The jury members read, discuss and judge a number of books. They often come together in reading groups to talk about the books. At the end of the reading year, the jury decide which books they like best and award prizes.

BE De Lovie VZW

De Lovie VZW supports children, young people and adults with intellectual or other disabilities in the Westhoek. People with additional needs due to autism spectrum disorders, psychological vulnerability, dementia, medical or physical problems can also contact the organisation.

NO Fantasifantasten Trude Brendeland

Trude has a paedagogical background. She writes books and makes workshops for kindergartens about how to create stimulating play environments.

NO Liten i Loddefjord

A new, open meeting place for families with children aged 0-3, started during the project period. Hosted at Loddefjord branch library. Families who participate get information about kindergarten and other social arenas for families. The personnel can also give advice about child development. A collaboration between the municipal kindergarten authority, Loddefjord branch library and the area initiative.

BE Natuurcentrum Beisbroek

Nature education centre in Brugge. The centre has a permanent exhibition of interactive stands, where families can learn about and experience nature.

NO Åpen barnehage (Open kindergarten)

Most Norwegian children start kindergarten at age 1. Parents and other caretakers who are at home with their children during parental leave or for other reasons, can bring their child to open kindergarten to meet other parents and children. Parents look after their own child, the open kindergarten arranges activities and a meal. The child gains experience with social interaction and playing. Open kindergartens are run primarily by religious or ideal organisations.



Success stories

In a project like “It All Starts with a Book”, impact is not always reflected in numbers. Number of participants may show reach, but not whether we have connected with those we aimed to support. These stories show how our activities have influenced the lives of children and adults with diverse language backgrounds:

We met a mother and child at an event hosted outside of the library. The next time we came we brought with us books in her mother tongue. She was very grateful, and made a library card so that she could go to the library and find more books.



At Liten i Loddefjord, the library had provided books in all the languages represented among the families. As the children were playing, three mothers were looking in one of the books, teaching each other words in their separate languages and comparing the sounds of the words. All three women had different mother tongues.

We sat together with parents and children to share a meal and get to know each other before the event. This changed the atmosphere during the event and gave us a common ground where we all were equal and part of the same community.

The mother said she had never played with her children before, but when she took home the “trade bag” with a puzzle, a game and a book, they had so much fun playing as a family. She also recommended her favourite game to the other mothers.

While visiting the library, I met a mother who had participated in the “get to know the library with Ligo”-activity. Now she comes to the library regularly with her child!

I met a mother several times at an event hosted by a collaborating organisation. I invited her to attend LitteraTUR, and she brought her entire family and another family. It was their first experience hiking together.

After visiting an open kindergarden and inviting them to an event at the library, several of the families have started to use the library with their children.

A child who attended the reflector workshop came back for a school visit to the library. He was visibly at home in the library, and told the other children about the workshop he had been to with his family.

“Klein Avontuur” has mostly the same group of participants every time. One of the children was hesitant in the beginning. He was afraid to be away from his mom and didn’t dare to join in. After two or three times, you could really see him blossom, participate in the activity, and he didn’t mind being a little farther away from his mom anymore.”

Professional impact

The activities in this booklet reflect some, but not all of the inspiration we have gotten from the project visits. Here are some of the ideas that are still developing:

Bergen Public Library is planning an activity similar to Speel mee met je kind, where the librarian meets parents to talk about books and how to use books to improve language development for babies and toddlers.

We heard about BoekBezoek, volunteers visiting families to read to the children, when visiting Oostende Library. One of the branch libraries in Bergen have just started a new collaboration, where establishing a similar arrangement with multilingual families is one of the goals.

Contact information



BERGEN
OFFENTLIGE
BIBLIOTEK

Bergen Offentlige bibliotek

www.bergenbibliotek.no

post@bergenbibliotek.no

Subject field: "Starts with a book"

Project coordinator: Mariell Wilhelmsen Vågen



Ligo

www.ligo-regiobow.be

info@ligo-regiobow.be

Subject field: "Starts with a book"

Project contact person: Annelies Vandenberghe

Book list

The following list is a complete overview over the books mentioned in the activity texts of this booklet. All books are listed in the language used by the activity's host organisation. ISBN for the English-language edition is enclosed where an edition in English exists.

Barnett, Mac (2022) *Een ijsbeer in de sneeuw*.
Ploegsma. ISBN: 9789021683706.
English ISBN: 9781406399851

Bond, Louisa; Gregersen, Kathrine and Sjøstad, Tone
(2022) *Fiks det! - en praktisk håndbok for fikserne*.
Norges husflidslag. ISBN: 9788291195445.

Brech, Nora (2020) *Den store fuglejakten*.
Aschehoug. ISBN: 9788203268168.
English ISBN: 9781782508007.

Brech, Nora (2024) *Stjernetyven*. Aschehoug.
ISBN: 9788203397820.

Bruce, Marie Årslund (2023) *Fiks ferdig! En bok
om usynlig reparasjon av klær både for hånd og på
symaskin*. Kolofon. ISBN: 9788230025864.

Carle, Eric (2013) *Rupsje Nooitgenoeg*. Gottmer.
ISBN: 9789025755348.

English ISBN: 978-0241003008.

Donnelley, Paddy (2023) *Vos en zoon*. Luitingh-
Sijthoff. ISBN: 9789021037127.
English ISBN: 9781788494410

Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise (2016) *Mijn Tak!* Gottmer.
ISBN: 9789025765668.
English ISBN: 9781406373448.

Freeman, Mylo (2019) *Prinses Arabella in het
museum*. De Eenhoorn. ISBN: 9789462913868.
English ISBN: 9781913175061.

Gimbergsson, Sara (2023) *Hidde huilt*. Tiptoe Print.
ISBN: 9789463880596.

Gravett, Emily (2016) *Rasken Rydder*. Cappelen
Damm. ISBN: 9788282184564.
English ISBN: 9781447273998.

Hare, John (2020) *Reis naar de maan*. Lannoo.
ISBN: 9789401465830.
English ISBN: 9781529010626. This book is
wordless in Dutch, but has text in the English edition.

Haughton, Chris (2016) *God natt alle sammen*.
Fortellerforlaget. ISBN: 9788281033009.
English ISBN: 9781406373226.

Haughton, Chris (2020) *Det går bra, lille krabbe*.
Fortellerforlaget. ISBN: 9788281033788.
English ISBN: 9781406392869.

Hensgen, Andrea (2015) *De Grote Hond*. De
Eenhoorn. ISBN: 9789058389824.

Hillestad, Evy (2023) *Gøy med tøy! Ta vare på det du
har*. Kolon Forlag. ISBN: 9788230025826.

Ilic, Nikolas (2021) *Farger med dyrene*. Gyldendal
Norsk Forlag. ISBN: 9788205580732.
English ISBN: 9788252147445.

Khounnoraj, Aounna (2024) *Visible Mending.
Repair, Renew, Reuse The Clothes You Love*. Qadrille
Publishing. ISBN: 9781837830732.

Knapp, Andrew (2019) *Waar is Momo?* Condor.

ISBN: 9789492899682.
English ISBN: 9781594749582.

Knapp, Andrew (2019) *Zoek Momo*. Condor.
ISBN: 9789492899552.
English ISBN: 9781594746789.

Krogseth, Sunniva Sunde (2021) *Nattsvermerne*.
Gyldendal. ISBN: 9788252147445.

Landström, Olof & Lena (1996) *Bø og Bæ i vinden*.
Samlaget. ISBN: 9788205545090.

Le Bris, Melani (2018) *Steve de schrik van de zee*.
Clavis B.V.B.A.. ISBN 9789044833980.
English ISBN: 9780192766854.

McKee, Jonathan (2022) *Kijk nou taart*. De Fontein
ISBN: 9789026162725.

Naylor-Ballesteros, Chris (2024) *Frank en Bert*.
Gottmer. ISBN: 9789025775841.
English ISBN: 9781788008419.

Pfister, Marcus (1996) *De mooiste vis van de zee*. De
Vier Windstreken. ISBN: 9789055791910.
English ISBN: 9783314015441.

Robben, Jaap (2016) *Suzie Ruzie in het diepe*.
Gottmer. ISBN: 9789025766351.

Salmon, Caspar (2022) *Het nummer één telboek*.
Gottmer ISBN: 9789025775780.
English ISBN: 978-1839941931.

Simmons, Jane (2004) *Het ei van Bommes*. Baekens
Books. ISBN: 9789052471099.
English ISBN: 9781860396557

Sterkens, Christine (2024) *5 beren*. VZW Herkens.
ISBN: 9789493136205.
Multilingual edition ISBN: 9789493136342.

Tullet, Hervé (2017) *Kom og lek!*. Mangschou.
ISBN: 9788282381659.
English ISBN: 9781797227733.

Tullet, Hervé (2022) *Oh! En bok som lager lyd*.
Mangschou. ISBN: 9788282382410.
English ISBN: 9781452164731.

Tullet, Hervé (2014) *Trykk her*. Mangschou. ISBN:
9788282381758
English ISBN: 9780811879545

Van Genechten, Guido (2008) *De wiebelbillenboogje*.

Clavis. ISBN: 9789044852905.

Van Genechten, Guido (2022) *Het boek van Pip*.
Clavis. ISBN: 9789044845488.
English ISBN: 9781605377896

Van Hout, Mies (2019) *Dit is mijn papa!* Gottmer.
ISBN: 9789025771089.
English ISBN: 9781772781120.

Vergara, Ma Isabel Sánchez (2019) *Små folk, store
drømmer: Ella Fitzgerald*. Gyldendal.
ISBN: 9788205526365.
English ISBN: 9781786030863.

Zoboli, Giovanna (2019) *Overdag is hij een krokodil*.
BBNC Uitgevers. ISBN: 9789045323930.
English ISBN: 9781452165066.

Recommended recipes for LitteraTUR

We recommend using recipes where the ingredients
can be bought ready or easily prepared in advance,
so that participants experience cooking in nature with
children as something manageable. These are some
suggestions (recipes are in Norwegian):

Huevos Rancheros: <http://bit.ly/44YGT0o>

Pizza on the gas burner stove: <http://bit.ly/468lx0w>

Project card

Key Action: Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices
Action Type: Small-scale partnerships in adult education

Project title

It all starts with a book

Project Coordinator

Organisation Bergen Kommune
Address Rådhusgaten 10, 5014 Bergen, NO
Website www.bergen.kommune.no

Project Information

Identifier 2023-1-NO01-KA210-ADU-000157518
Start Date Sep 1, 2023
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EC Contribution 60,000 EUR
Partners Ligo, Centrum voor Basiseducatie Brugge-Oostende-Westhoek (BE)
Topics Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination; Media literacy and tackling disinformation; Bridging intercultural, integrational and social divide.

Project Summary

Objectives

During this project, we will create a booklet of different activities for adult learners with children from 0-6 years old and 7-12 years old. These will focus on inclusion and preventing illiteracy through activities with literature. These will also be social arenas. As the title of the project says: it all starts with a book. Building activities around books that can bring joy and learning for adult learners and their children will be a central part of the project.

Activities

For adult learners with children in the age group 0-6 years old, we will create activities based on literature/stories and social meeting points. For adult learners with children from 7-12 years there will be creative activities with literature and digital tools, this is an important part of working in a digital area and literacy. We will collaborate with local organisations to reach out to our target group and organise trips to the partner organisation.

Impact

We want adult learners to get a new arena where they can practice Norwegian and Dutch and to socially interact with other people that have children in the same age group. Through the project the target group will get to know the offers libraries and other organisations have for families and therefore continue to use them after the project ends. The booklet will become a tool to create activities for this group and will be shared after the project end so that it can live on in other organisations.

