



## Children's Books for Special Needs

# First Experiences



**Barnardos**

EVERY CHILDHOOD LASTS A LIFETIME



# Children's Books for Special Needs

## Introduction

As children grow up, they may encounter situations that can pose problems for them. Fingal County Libraries in association with Barnardos have compiled a series of eight booklists which can help explain some of these situations. They include:

- Adoption & Fostering
- Bullying
- Death & Bereavement
- Disability
- Family Life
- First Experiences
- Growing Up (emotional and physical) and
- Health

Books can be very valuable in helping children begin to understand problems and fears. Furthermore, books can enable them to express themselves and provide the comfort of knowing that they're not alone, as well as supplying suggestions for ways of resolving the problem. The book should however, be followed up with the child to ensure s/he gets the most from it.

These lists are not intended to be comprehensive, but rather are selective guides to the best of children's books published on these topics in recent years. All of the titles listed are currently in print and should be available in public libraries and bookshops. The age ranges indicated are approximate. We hope you find them useful.

**Aideen Griffin**

*Librarian*

Fingal County Libraries

# First Experiences

Did you ever face something new, and wish that someone had taken a few minutes to discuss with you what was going to happen, or how you might feel?

The books contained in this list are just for that. Aimed at children from 0-11 years of age, the books cover a broad range of subjects from *Potty Time*, an illustrated book around potty training, to titles such as *Hospital* and *Moving* which are collections of letters, stories and discussions around going to hospital and moving home.

The books identified in this list address a broad range of subjects, from those easily recognised as new experiences like first day at school, going to the dentist, or a new baby in the family. It also looks at situations which can be equally confusing and hard to work out such as, "What is a wedding?" (*Milly's Wedding*), "A new bike – great, but what do I do?" (*The Magical Bicycle*) and "Do I want to stay in someone else's house?" (*Edward's First Night Away*).

Throughout our lives we all face new situations; as we grow older, knowledge and past experiences equip us to deal with these. This booklet gives us the opportunity to prepare the children in our care for some of their first experiences, giving both the child and adult the necessary vocabulary and illustrations to discuss these experiences and make them fun. All we have to do is think of one past experience that could have been improved on with a little preparation to realise how valuable these 'first experiences' are.

Take a look for yourself and then enjoy sharing and supporting a child in your life through a positive first experience.

**Marijka Walsh**

*Co-ordinator*

Barnardos Family Support Centre, Dun Laoghaire

## Arthur's New Puppy

**Marc Brown**

*Red Fox 'Arthur' Series 0099219328 p/b 1997 Ages 4-7*

Arthur gets a new puppy who creates havoc in the house until he trains him. One in a series of books about Arthur and his adventures.

## Billy and the Big New School

**Catherine and Laurence Anholt**

*Orchard 1860392075 h/b 1997, 1841213497 h/b 1999, 1841210595 p/b 1999, 1860395244 p/b 1998 Ages 3-6*

Billy is worried about starting school until he finds a little bird who is afraid to leave his nest for the big world.

## Edward's First Night Away

**Rosemary Wells**

*Walker 0744544874 h/b 1996, 0744552605 p/b 1996, Poolbeg 1853716464 h/b 1997 Ages 3-6*

When Edward goes to his friend's house to play, he finds he isn't quite ready to stay the night. One in a series of titles about 'Edward the Unready' bear.

**Read Also:**

**Edward's First Day at School Walker** *0744552591 p/b 1997, Poolbeg 1853716413 h/b 1996*

**Edward's First Swimming Party Walker** *0744552613 p/b 1997, Poolbeg 1853716510 h/b 1996*

## Freddie Visits the Doctor

**Nicola Smee**

*Orchard 1860395376 h/b, 1860394906 p/b, O'Brien 0862785367 1997 Ages 1-4*

Freddie and his bear must go to the doctor as they both have sore throats. The doctor examines them and prescribes some medicine to make it better.

# First Experiences

## Read also:

**Freddie Goes Swimming** 1860396747 h/b, 1860398103 p/b 1998

**Freddie Goes to Playgroup** 1860396763 h/b, 1860398111 p/b 1998

**Freddie Has a Haircut** 1860399851 h/b, 1860399878 p/b 1999

**Freddie Visits the Dentist** 184121129X h/b, 1841211257 h/b 2000

These titles feature a little boy and his bear and their first experiences.

## Hospital

**Janine Amos**

*Cherrytree 'Separations' Series 0745152716 h/b 1998 Ages 7-11*

A combination of letters, stories and discussions of feelings to help children who are going into hospital.

## Leon and Bob

**Simon James**

*Walker 0744544890 h/b 1997, 0744554918 p/b 1998 Ages 5-8*

A story about a little boy who finds a real friend to replace his imaginary one when he moves house.

## Little Monster Did It!

**Helen Cooper**

*Doubleday 0385406207 h/b 1995, Picture Corgi 0552528277 p/b 1996 Ages 3-6*

Amy's friend 'Little Monster' is not impressed when her Mum arrives home with a new baby and so proceeds to cause trouble. But it's Amy who gets the blame...An amusing look at sibling rivalry.

## Liza's Lamb

**Margrit Cruikshank**

*Poolbeg 1853715182 p/b 1995 Ages 7-10*

A story about a boy's first stay in hospital and the friend he makes there.

## The Magical Bicycle

**Berlie Doherty**

Illustrated by Christian Birmingham

*Collins 0001937405 h/b, 000664614X p/b 1996 Ages 5-8*

A picture book about a little boy who gets a new bicycle and is determined to learn how to ride it.

## Milly's Wedding

**Kate Summers**

*Orion 1858813603 h/b 1998 Ages 4-8*

A charming story which introduces children to the customs and preparations of a wedding.

## Mr Bear Babysits

**Debi Gliori**

*Orchard 1852136294 h/b 1994, 1852138432 p/b 1995, O'Brien 0862784085 p/b 1995  
Ages 3-6*

Mr Bear always thought that babysitting was easy until he had to try it. An amusing story for anyone who has ever babysat or been babysat for.

## Moving

**Janine Amos**

*Cherrytree 'Separations' Series 0745152732 h/b 1998 Ages 7-11*

A combination of letters, stories and practical advice to help children cope with moving home.

**My First Kitten** 0590111272 p/b 1998

**My First Pony** 0590111280 p/b 1999

**My First Puppy** 0590197916 p/b 1998

**Tessa Krailing**

*Young Hippo Scholastic 'My First' Series Ages 6-8*

A series of short novels about first pets which incorporate information on how to care for these pets into the storyline.

## Nicky

**Tony and Zoë Ross**

*Anderson 0862647355 h/b 1997, Collins Picture Lions 0006646506 p/b 1998 Ages 3-6*

A funny tale about a little girl who doesn't want to start school despite her mother's reassurances that everything will be fine.

## Open Wide! My First Trip to the Dentist

**Jen Green**

Illustrated by Mike Gordon

*Wayland 'New Experiences' Series 0750225041 h/b 1999, 0750226633 p/b 2000 Ages 4-7*

A story about a little girl's first trip to the dentist. Contains notes for parents and teachers.



## Our New Baby

Jen Green

Watts 'How Do I Feel About' Series 0749628189 h/b 1997, 0749636300 p/b 2000 Ages 6-9

Four children discuss their feelings about the arrival of baby brothers and sisters.

## Potty Time

Fiona Watt and Rachel Wells

Usborne 'Baby's World' Series 0746037228 h/b 1999, 0746038399 p/b 2000 Ages 0-3

A brightly illustrated picture book about potty training.

## Puppy Love

Dick King-Smith

Illustrated by Anita Jeram

Walker 0744549469 h/b 1997, 0744563488 p/b 1999 Ages 5-8

A picture book full of puppies which includes advice on how to look after them.

## Sophie and the New Baby

Catherine and Laurence Anholt

Orchard 1852139188 h/b 1995, 1841213454 h/b 1999, 1841210579 p/b 1999

Ages 3-6

When Sophie hears that there's going to be a new baby in the family she's very excited and can't wait. But when the baby arrives, everything changes.

## Stories From Hilltop Hospital

Nicholas Allan

Hutchinson 0091766184 h/b 1997 Ages 6-9

A collection of short stories about everyday routines in a hospital run by animals. Ideal for reassuring first-time patients.

## Three-Star Billy

**Pat Hutchins**

*Red Fox 0099493918 p/b 1997 Ages 3-6*

Billy the monster is very reluctant to go to nursery school. He decides to behave very badly on his first day, which is exactly how a good monster should behave!

## What's That Noise?

**Francesca Simon and David Melling**

*Hodder 0340656735 p/b 1996 Ages 3-6*

Harry is staying with his grandparents for the first time. In a strange bed, he hears strange noises, but Grandpa is always there to reassure him.

## You Can Swim, Jim

**Kaye Umansky and Margaret Chamberlain**

*Bodley Head 0370324528 h/b 1997, Red Fox 0099669412 p/b 1998 Ages 5-8*

A lively story about a little boy who is reluctant to join his classmates in the swimming pool despite their encouragement.

## Useful Addresses

### National Children's Resource Centre

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### Children in Hospital Ireland

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