



# Wednesday Webinar: Family Learning in Prisons 2 November 2022



**Prisoner  
Learning  
Alliance**

We provide expertise and strategic vision to inform  
prison education priorities, policies and practices



@prison\_learning

[www.prisonerlearningalliance.org.uk](http://www.prisonerlearningalliance.org.uk)



Prisoners · Families · Communities  
A Fresh Start Together

# Pact Family Learning

Debbie Hornbuckle  
Pact's Head of Groupwork

[www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)



# Pact- what we do

- We provide family support services in over **60** prisons in England & Wales
- We provide support to defendant's families in **12** London courts
- We provide support for people on probation in **8** regions
- We deliver **family learning** across prisons and the community in England and Wales
- We run **Peer Support** Groups and provide trained **Befrienders** to families who are struggling to cope with their loved one's sentence
- We run the HMPPS National **Prisoners' Families Helpline** service

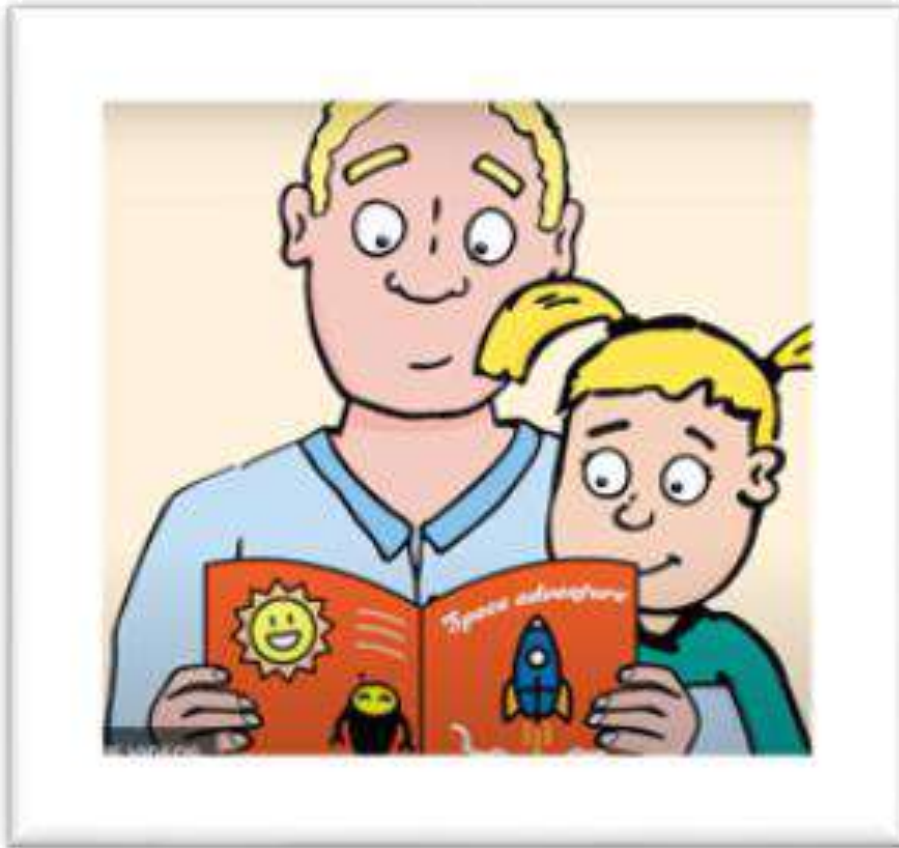
# The Golden Thread

- Relationships are fundamentally important if people are to change.
- The risk of re-offending is reduced when a prisoner has just one actively supportive family member.
- Evidence shows us that relationships can reduce incidents of violence and self-harm and be a protective factor around future desistance from criminal activity.
- One of Pact's aims is to deliver family learning that develops prisoners' parenting and relationships skills

# Some insights



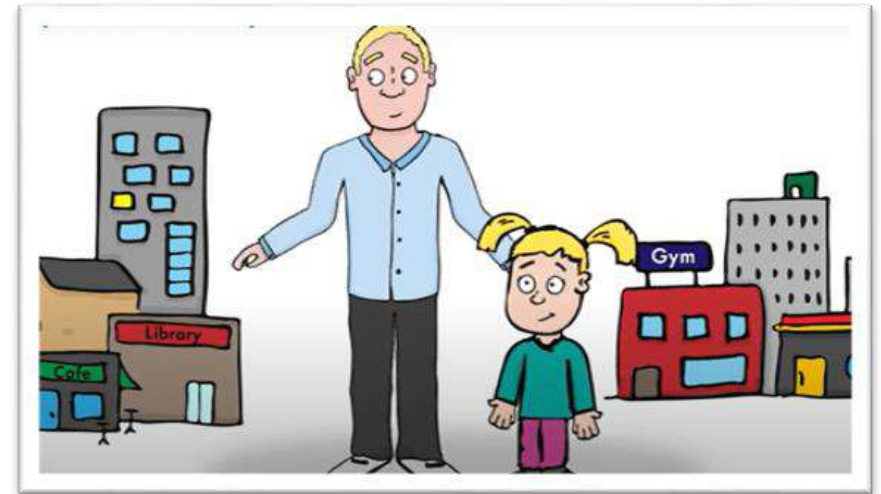
# Pact's Suite of Course



- **Coming Home**- a one day resettlement course
- **Building Stronger Families**- a three day course for prisoners and their partner
- **Within My Reach**- a three day course exploring healthy, safe and stable relationships with partners and families,
- **FLiP** (Family Literacy in Prison)- a one day course helping parents to support their children's early literacy development.

# Pact's Suite of Course

- **Time to Connect**- a two-day course promoting positive parenting through play
- **Staying Connected**- a two-day course for dads who have limited or no contact with their children
- **Mothers Inside and Out**- supporting women to explore their role at mothers co-developed with Dr Lucy Baldwin and De Montfort University



# Lockdown and Beyond

- Delivering across the London prisons and HMP Manchester
- Had to develop new ways of working
- Enabled development of 1:1 interventions based on courses
- Supported prisoners by assessing individual need and developing a family relationship pathway of learning
- Enables Pact to offer blended delivery
- Embedded offer into casework



# Pact's Family and Relationship Education

- Pact has an extensive curriculum of interventions and programmes, both one-to-one and groupwork based
- Pact deliver both in prisons and the community
- Over **1691** interventions completed in the past 2 years in prisons
- **165** attendees completed Pact courses this year in prisons
- Strength of offer due to partnerships with Dr Lucy Baldwin, Professor Cathy Nutbrown, PREP University of Denver, and our newest partners Parent Gym



Prisoners · Families · Communities  
A Fresh Start Together

# Thank you for listening!

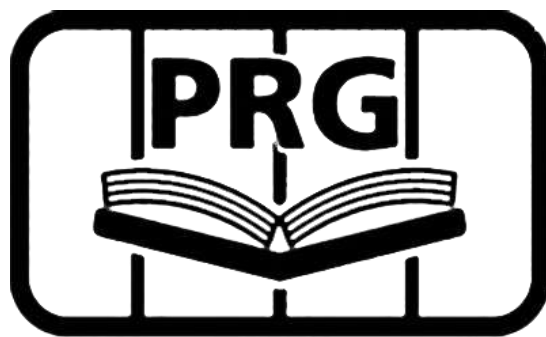
[deborah.hornbuckle@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:deborah.hornbuckle@prisonadvice.org.uk)

[www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)



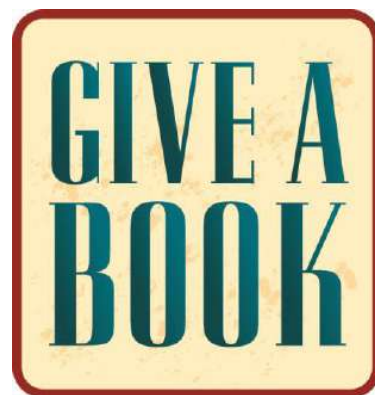
Pact is a charity registered in England and Wales, number: 219278.  
Company registration number: 356443.

Prisoners · Families · Communities · A Fresh Start Together



Prison Reading Groups

# Family Reading Projects in Prisons

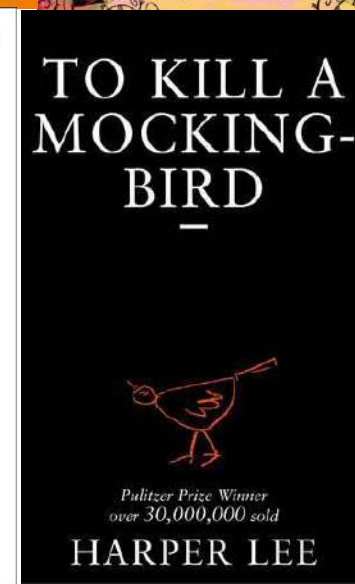
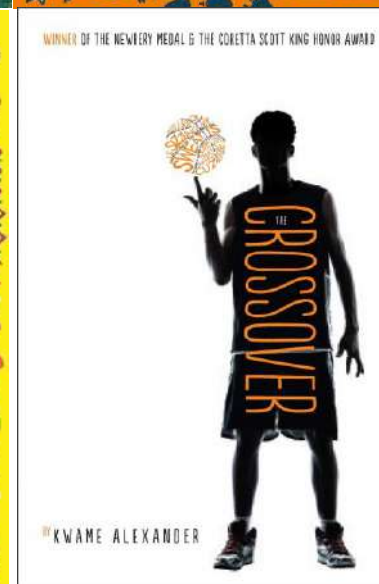
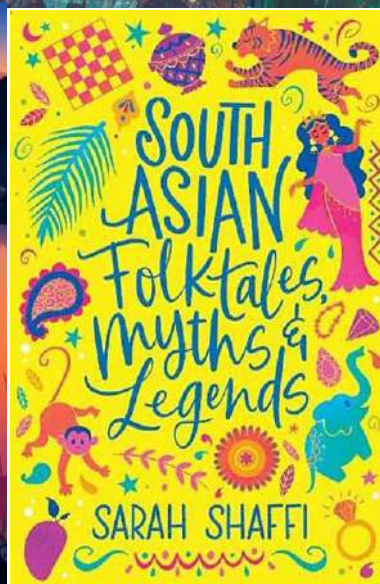
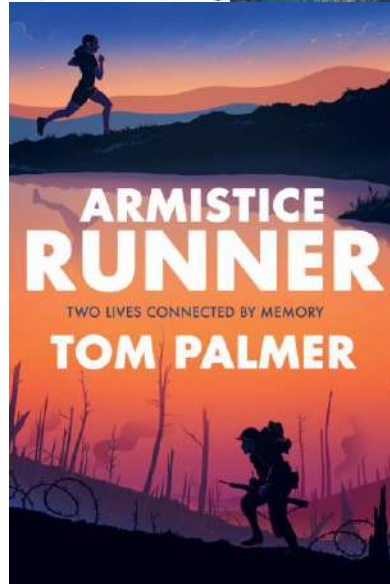
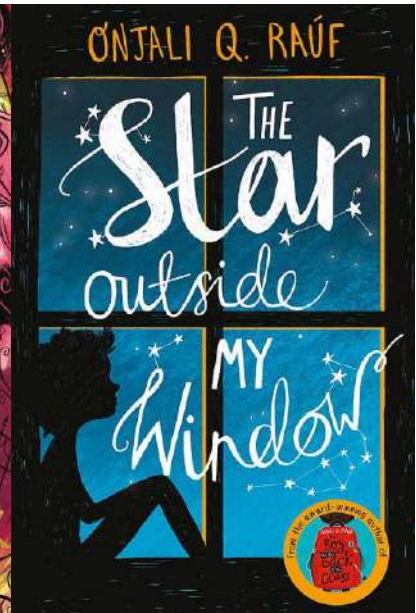
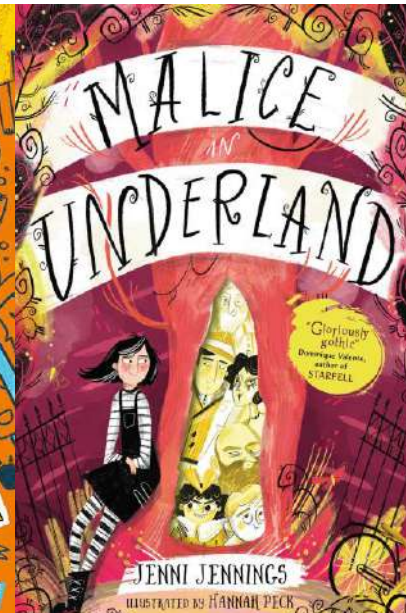
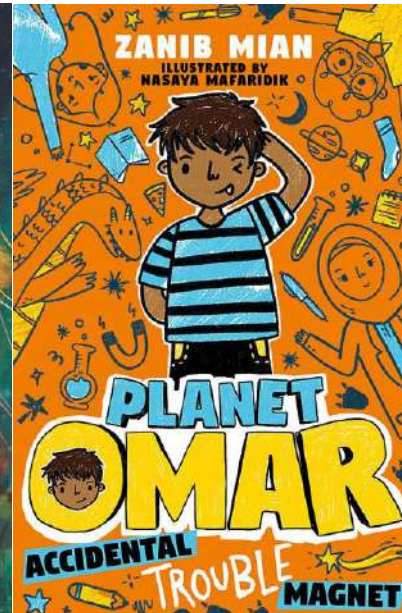
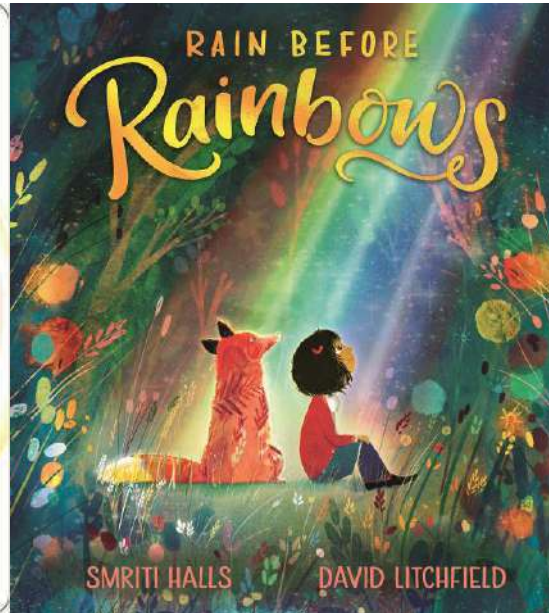
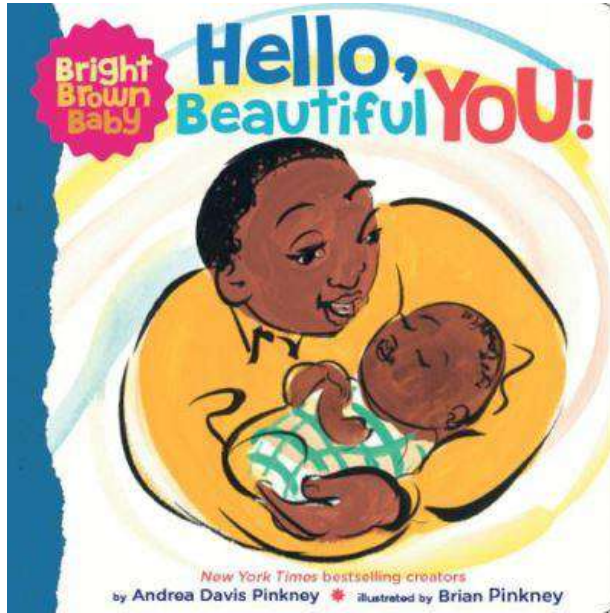


# Guiding Aims and Principles

- family connections through books
- the *pleasure* of reading as central to reading development
- enabling children and parents to have *choice* in what they read
- carefully selected books from a variety of publishers to ensure diversity and inclusion
- the power of the book as a gift
- simplicity and flexibility in project design



# Family Days



Prison Reading Groups

# Family Days

In the last year PRG has supported over **40 Family Days** with more than **2000 books**.

And collaboration with other organisations including:

- Storybook Dads
- Safeguard Fathers Inside
- Novus family learning project



# Family Days

*'I loved the book scheme. It helped me enjoy reading to my kids, I felt close.'*

*'Yes, happy getting a book. Made it special as my son will remember his daddy when he reads it.'*

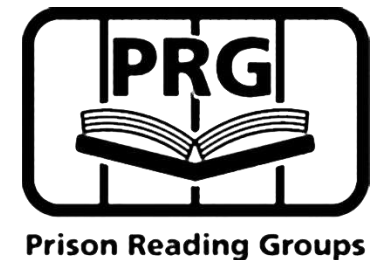
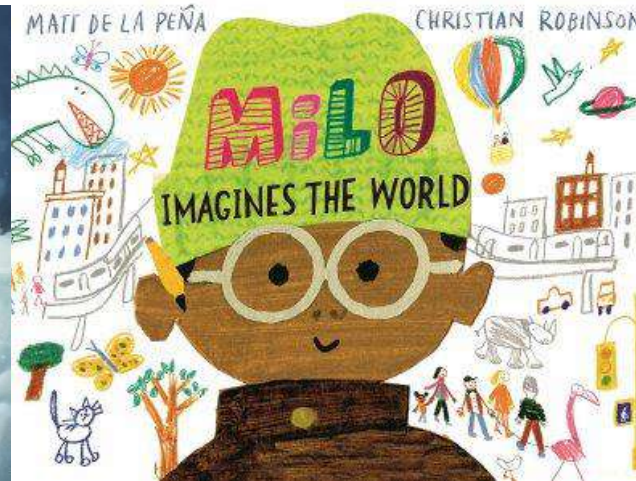
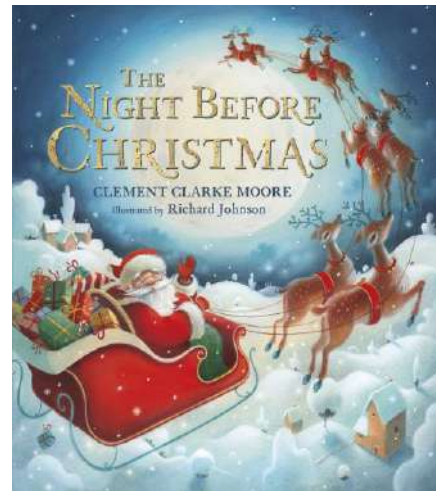
What did you like best about the book? *'It was from my daddy.'*

*'It was great that we could choose a book or two. I chose Lemn Sissay, **My Name is Why**, because I have a mixed race family and wanted to read his story. I also chose **Hello Beautiful You** for my baby boy. He's mixed race and I like that the picture represents him not all books do.'*



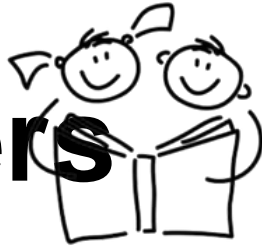
# Reaching out through radio

Pilot project at HMP Wandsworth: children's books read out on **Radio Wanno** and prisoners invited to request a copy to be sent home and one for them to keep so parents and children could read together over the phone or in video visits.





# Raising Readers



## Raising Readers: Book list

### Age 0-2

**Where's Mr Polar Bear?** by Ingela P Arrhenius  
A stylish and fun book with felt flaps, friendly characters and a surprise mirror ending.



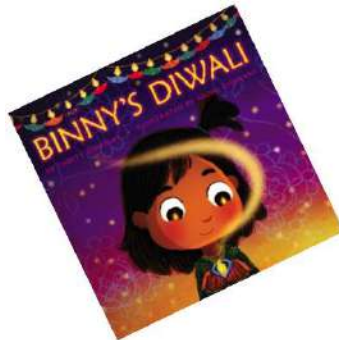
**20 Dinosaurs at Bedtime** by Tim Budgen  
The best way to get children to sleep? Not sheep, but dinosaurs.

**Lets Explore with Ted** by Sophy Henn  
What magical place will Ted explore today? A lift the flap and find out book for little ones.



### Age 3-5

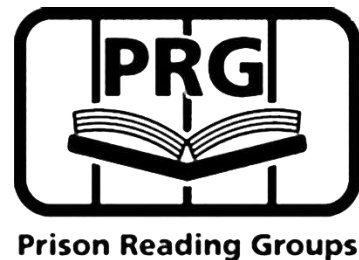
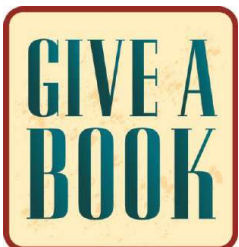
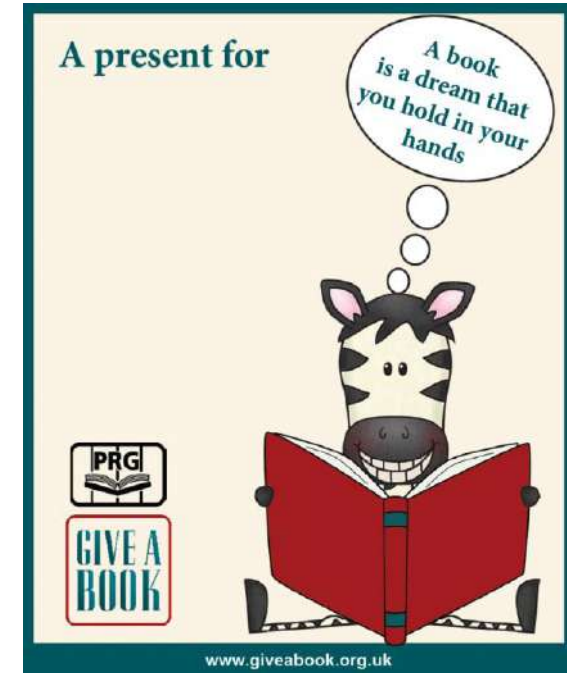
**Binny's Diwali** by Thrity Umrigar  
Binny tells her classmates all about the Hindu festival of lights. A story of acceptance and sharing



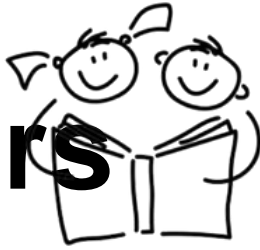
**Five Minutes Peace** by Jill Murphy  
A story of Mrs Large the elephant who just wants 5 minutes peace from her children. A warm and funny modern classic.



**This is Not a Unicorn** by Barry Timms  
A delightfully silly tale about a unicorn whose horn can change into incredible things.



# Raising Readers



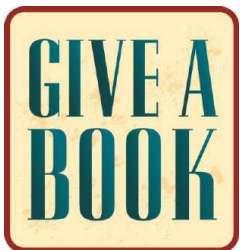
**Did you like having your own copy?**

*‘Yes, I love being able to share the book together.’*

*‘Yes, it sometimes feels like I’m there with her.’*

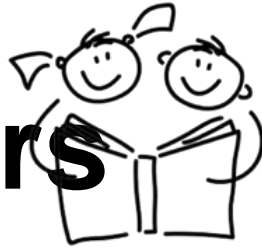
*‘I had a video visit last week and they both came on and read their books to me.’*

*‘One man came and found me to show me a picture of his daughter and to tell me how pleased she was with the book. Also that she’d heard the book read out on one of her children’s programmes which she was delighted about!’ (librarian)*

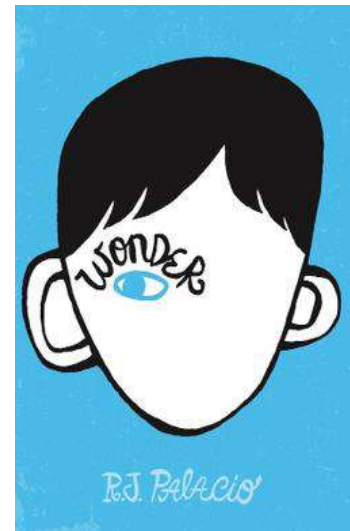
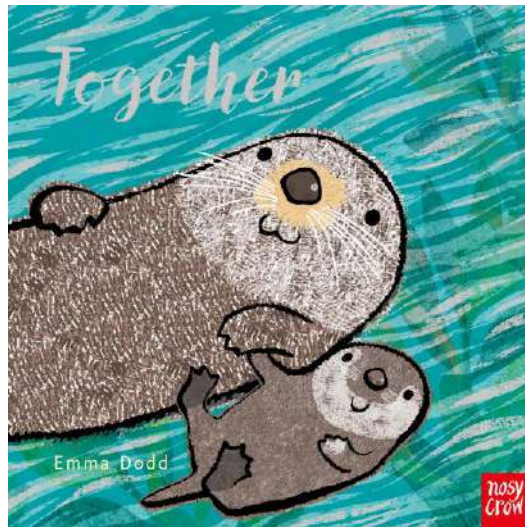


Prison Reading Groups

# Raising Readers



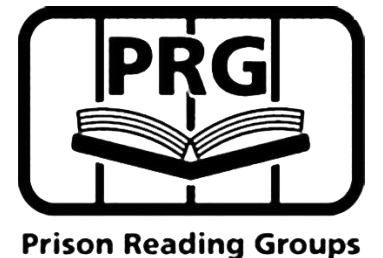
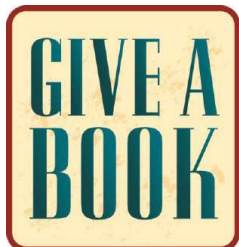
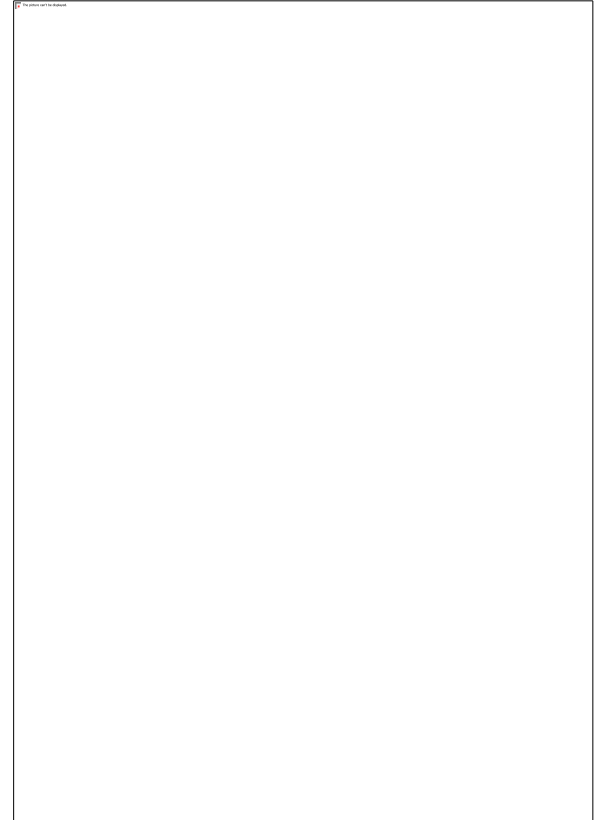
The project started in Spring 2022 and we have so far sent **1500+** books to 17 prisons.



# First Books

A regular supply of carefully-chosen books sent to the 6 Mother and Baby units in the women's estate.

*'The babies have loved working out the noisy books and bopping along to them. The mix of flap books and touch/feel books is great for our age group.'*

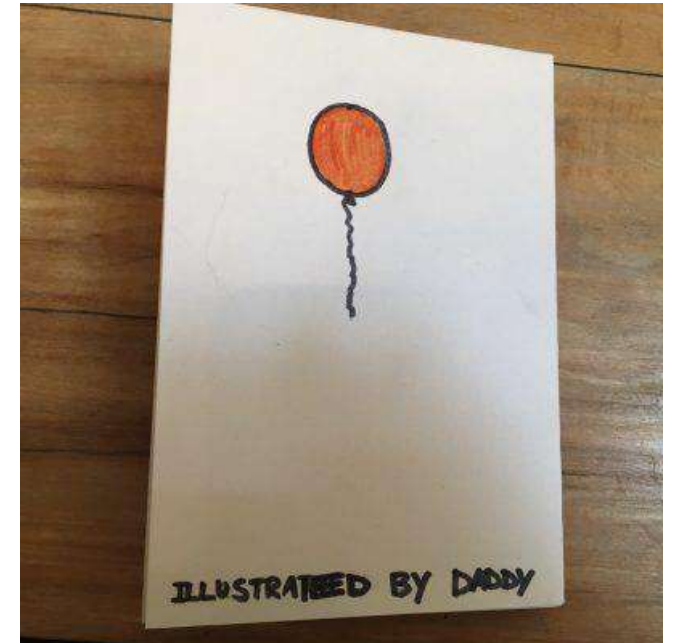


# Making it Up



- A workshop project for prisoners to make illustrated storybooks to give and share with their children on a special reading day.
- A remote version developed during lockdown; prisons can choose the version that works best for local conditions.

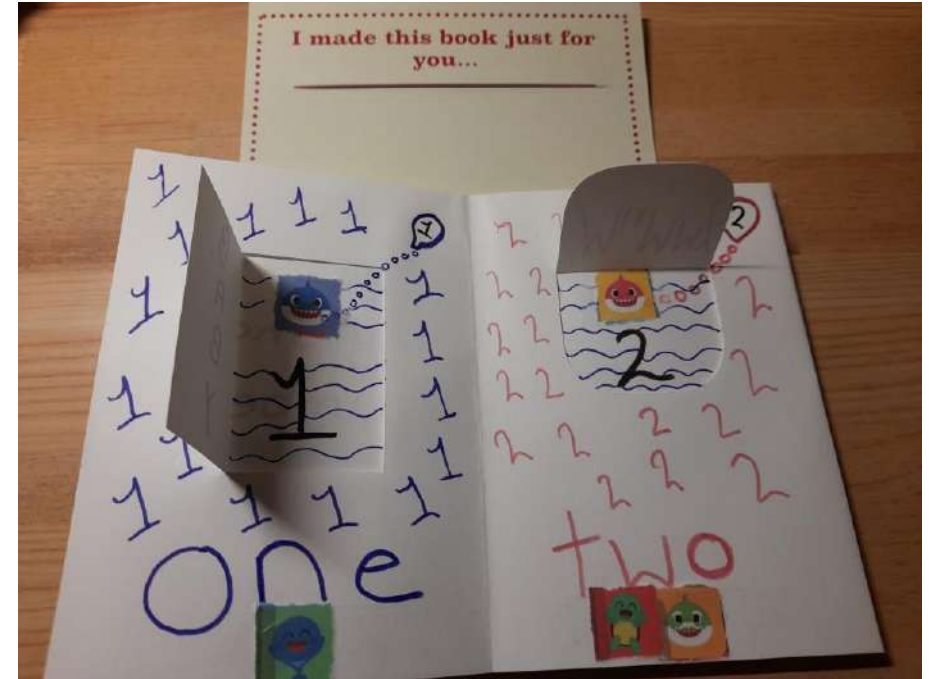
Since September 2021, the project has run in 10 prisons. In partnership with Children Heard and Seen, the project also ran over the summer as part of a residential weekend for prisoners' children.



# Making it Up



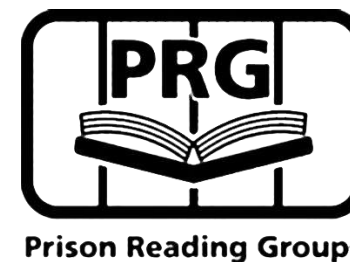
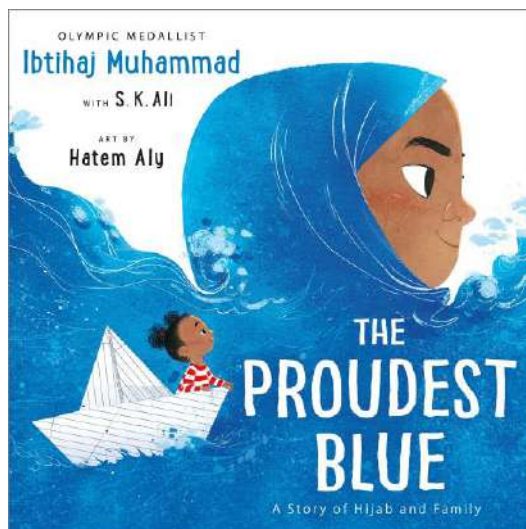
*'I've just had a phone call with a service user's mum. She said that [her grandson] reads his book every night without fail, asking for the book that Daddy made for him. And that he keeps it in a safe place away from anyone else, saying that it is his special book.'* (inside family liaison contact)



# What Happens Next



- A workshop and family event to help prisoners feel more confident about sharing books with their children
- Explores choosing books (age, interests, gender); reading as interactive play for young children (including cuddling, acting, shouting, singing); reading as a space to open up and mediate conversations with older children
- Ran as a successful pilot in 2019; roll out interrupted by COVID-19 but now due to happen in 2023, including an adapted version specifically for prisoners with teenage children



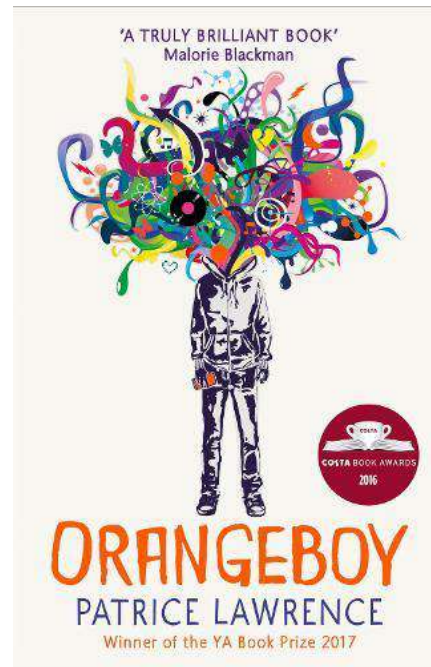
# What Happens Next



*'Working together in a group was brilliant.'*

*'I haven't stopped thinking about it and all the stories I'm going to read with my kids.'*

*'One of the participants chose Orange Boy for himself and his teenager and said they were having a race to finish it before the family event.'*



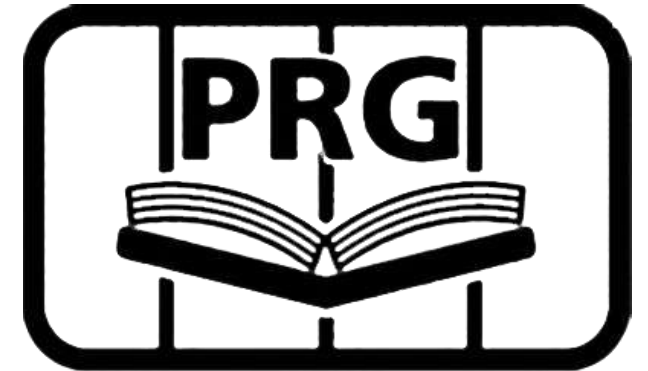


## Prison Reading Groups

[www.prisonreadinggroups.org.uk](http://www.prisonreadinggroups.org.uk)

[admin@prg.org.uk](mailto:admin@prg.org.uk)

@PRG\_UK



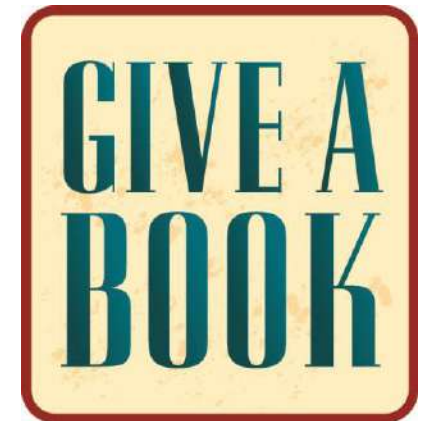
**Prison Reading Groups**

**Prison Reading Groups** is part of **Give a Book**

[www.giveabook.org.uk](http://www.giveabook.org.uk)

[info@giveabook.org.uk](mailto:info@giveabook.org.uk)

@giveabookorg





**Readconnect**



# Readconnect in HMP Swaleside

T: 020 7587 1842

W: [literacytrust.org.uk](http://literacytrust.org.uk)

Twitter: [@Literacy\\_Trust](https://twitter.com/Literacy_Trust)

Facebook: [nationalliteracytrust](https://www.facebook.com/nationalliteracytrust)

# About the National Literacy Trust

We support thousands of schools and early years settings each year. Last year we worked with nearly 250,000 children.



We have 17 Literacy Hubs working in communities where the need is greatest.



This year 83 businesses signed up to the *Vision for Literacy Business Pledge*. Our literacy research is cutting-edge and we campaign to make literacy a priority.



# Our criminal justice projects

- Books Unlocked – reading for pleasure
- Inside Stories with Audible – the power of audio
- New Chapters – creative writing
- Readconnect – parent & child connection

# Readconnect at HMP Swaleside

- A new three-year project which launched in April 2022, funded by the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, delivered in HMP Swaleside
- HMP Swaleside is a men's high security prison on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent – more than half of the population are serving 10+ years
- We are using storytelling, reading and literacy building activities to support the men to build and maintain strong bonds with their children and family members

# Why is a parent/child project so important?

- As we know, the early years are a vital time for learning and language development and bond building
- The workshops will focus on how the men can spend time with their children, using activities proven to improve speech, language and communication skills
- To help make the men feel and recognise the valuable role they play in their child's learning
- 52% of the residents in HMP Swaleside have a child under the age of 18
- A positive project for them to engage whilst they are in their cells for 21 hours a day

# Project activity

**Our aim is to raise the confidence of participants and support them to build and maintain a connect with their children through a range of activities:**

- In-person workshops
- Family day activities
- In-cell resource packs
- Digital content on Virtual Campus To Go
- Involving the men in the design and content of the project



# Readconnect – year 1

- 2 x focus groups completed with men from A & C wing
- First workshop delivered in June with Kestrel Theatre Company
- Attended the prison's summer family day
- 180 resource packs delivered
- More than 300 books gifted to the prison by Macmillan Children's Books
- Digital content uploaded to the Virtual Campus
- Collaborating with other NLT teams to share current resources, activities and relevant reports



**STORYTELLING WORKSHOP WITH  
KESTREL THEATRE COMPANY  
MONDAY 27 JUNE**

In this workshop you will learn skills to **bring stories to life** for your children and family members.

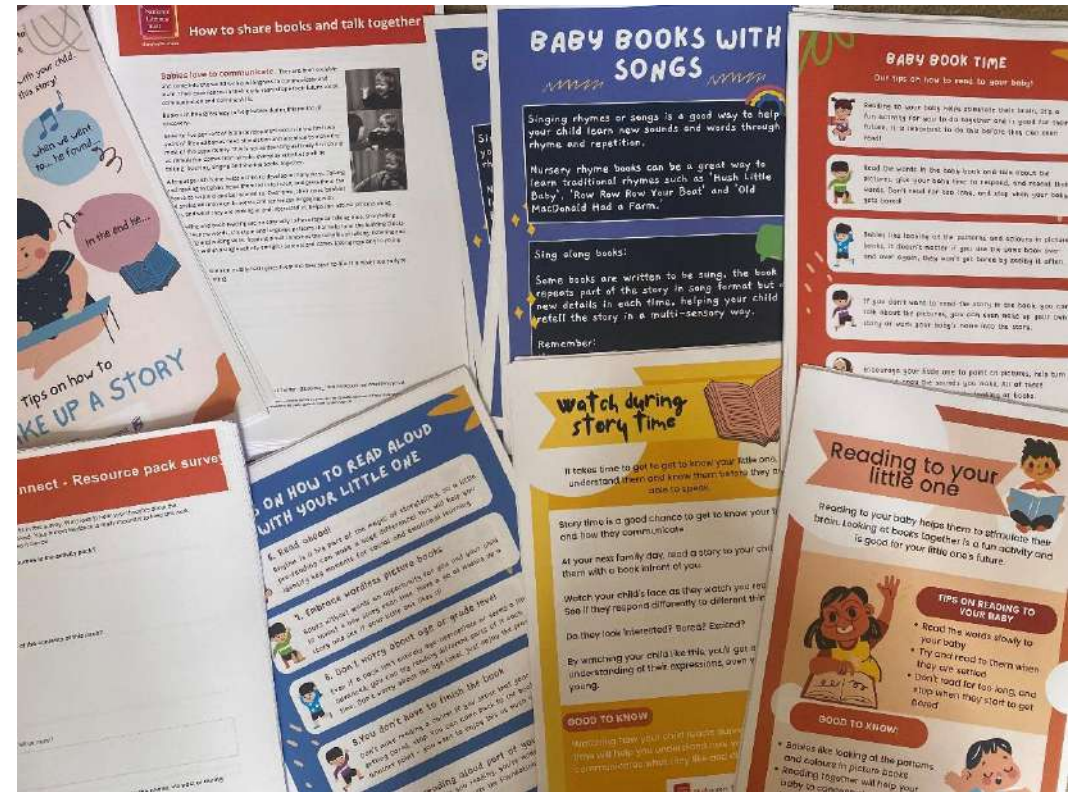
You will learn how to construct a good story, bring the characters to life, and **engage your children** in the stories you are sharing together.

All participants will receive a **free book** and further storytelling activities!





- 91% of participants rated the workshop as excellent
- 100% of participants said that the workshop made them more confident to read stories with their children
- 100 % of participants said that the workshop made them feel more confident in supporting their children’s learning through storytelling and reading
- Direct feedback included:
- *“I really like reading in different voices and learning to read in different styles.”*
- *“The overall feel of the session was exciting and enjoyed the way everyone was engaging in the class. Also the tutors were really friendly and easy to get along with.”*
- *“This really helped me connect and strengthen family ties.”*







Changing life stories

# Thank you

© National Literacy Trust 2019

T: 020 7587 1842 W: [literacytrust.org.uk](http://literacytrust.org.uk) Twitter: @Literacy\_Trust Facebook: [nationalliteracytrust](https://www.facebook.com/nationalliteracytrust)

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116260 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5836486 registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in Scotland no. SC042944. Registered address: 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL.



# **THE READING AGENCY**

**Delivering a Family Reading Challenge**

**PLA Webinar, 2 November 2022**

Emma Braithwaite, Head of Skills & Engagement,  
The Reading Agency

**FAMILY  
READING  
CHALLENGE**

# The Reading Agency

Tackling Life's Big Challenges Through the Proven Power of Reading

We focus on:

- Connected Communities
- Life Skills and Learning
- Health and Well-being

And work in partnership to deliver programmes where they are most needed

**FAMILY**  
**READING**  
**CHALLENGE**

**THE**  
**READING**  
**AGENCY**

# Family Reading Challenge – Project Aims

- Provide support to improve adult literacy and communication skills
- Promote joint reading as a way to maintain family connections and support prisoners' mental health
- Encourage peer-to-peer activity to promote the benefits of reading.

## How does it work?

- Combines two well-established programmes
  - Reading Ahead (supporting emergent adult readers)
  - Summer Reading Challenge (incentivised RfP programme for 4-11 yr olds)
- Parents and children read together during visits/ calls
- Both complete bespoke support resources during the challenge
- Parents reflect on sessions and access peer support
- Parents and children both receive rewards for taking part.

# Resources

- For children:  
Summer Reading Challenge Pack, books to read, completion rewards
- For parents:  
Reading diary, info leaflet, completion certificate, Quick Read book, feedback form, [peer toolkit]
- For staff:  
Delivery toolkit, selection of support resources, evaluation form



# Who was involved in the pilot?

- 2 prisons – HMP Oakwood and HMP Featherstone  
29 parents and at least 31 children took part
- Other community settings now trialing the model

# Evaluation of the pilot

- External evaluation of the pilot
- Aims of the evaluation:
  - Understand the impact of the programme
  - Gain learnings from the process to improve in future
- Data collected from participants and prison staff members

# Evaluation findings: Impact

- Increased engagement with reading amongst both children and parents
- Improved meaningful connections between parents and children
- Encouraged peer-to-peer support
- Enhanced participant-staff relationships

# Evaluation findings: Learnings

- Where the programme is 'homed' within the prison setting and who leads it makes a difference
- The Family Reading Challenge needs to be adaptable to different circumstances and frequent change
- Development of staff peer networks across prisons to share ideas and support delivery

# Resources and further information

- Reading programmes and campaigns for adults

**[www.readingagency.org.uk/adults](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/adults)**

- Register your interest to receive the Family Reading Challenge evaluation report

**[readingahead@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:readingahead@readingagency.org.uk)**

- Questions after the event can be sent to:

**[emma.braithwaite@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:emma.braithwaite@readingagency.org.uk)**

**FAMILY  
READING  
CHALLENGE**

**THE  
READING  
AGENCY**