



Share a Story

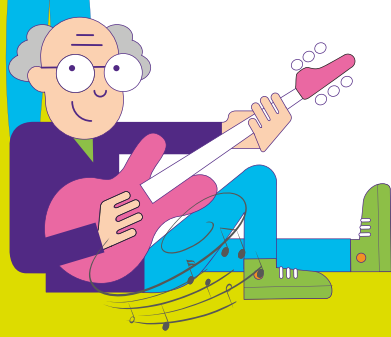
A reading guide about intergenerational connections for educators of children 0-12



NEVER TOO OLD



NEVER TOO YOUNG



childrensbooksireland.ie

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About this guide

The pandemic has been tumultuous, shaking up all of our lives, but it has revealed just how important close and meaningful relationships are to our collective wellbeing, not least the very special grandparent and grandchild relationship and the importance of connections across generations. We are delighted to publish this guide as a contribution to Global Intergenerational Week 2022, the aim of which is to inspire people around the world to start or restart intergenerational connections.

Children's books are for people of all ages. For this guide we have joined forces with Together Old and Young, or TOY, an international project that promotes the value of intergenerational learning between young children and older adults, and Hibernia College, the largest provider of teacher education in Ireland.

This guide is for everyone who would like to see those intergenerational connections reflected in books – older adults and younger children having time to get to know each other, learn from each other and develop a mutual understanding whilst also having fun. This carefully curated booklist for ages 0–12 features a diversity of friendships and relationships between old and young, as well as giving insight into the universal aging process.

The guide is also for early years educators and primary school teachers who see possibilities for bringing learning beyond the early childhood education setting or primary school walls. The books and tips suggested in this guide will help you start conversations with the children you work with about the different kinds of roles grandfathers and grandmothers play in children's lives in the here and now.

The last two years may have left some children feeling anxious, and some may have experienced loss. A number of the selected books also help children to deal with difficult subjects such as loss of a grandparent or 'grandfriend'. The tip page will give you ideas for what to look for in selecting books with intergenerational themes and suggestions for how you can use them. At the back, you will also find a list of organisations that can help you develop your intergenerational practice.

Ba bhealach iad leabhair scéalta riamh chun caidrimh a fhiosrú agus a bhrath nuair nach bhféadfáí teagmháil duine le duine a dhéanamh. Tá sin fíor go cinnte le dhá bhliain. Ba éalú a bhí sa léitheoireacht, a raibh géarghá leis ag go leor daoine, daoine fásta agus leanaí araon.

Tá scéalta in ann an duine a spreagadh freisin. Tugtar léargas iontu ar an gcaidreamh a bhíonn idir leanaí agus daoine fásta, ar mhuintearas agus ar mheas idir tuismitheoirí, seantuismitheoirí agus comharsana. Nuair atá téama láidir ag baint le leabhar – brón, uaigneas nó imní mar shampla – cuidíonn sin le páistí a gcuid mothúchán féin a thuiscint tríd insint agus charachtair an scéil.



Tips for choosing and sharing intergenerationally themed books

When choosing books, look out for:

Positivity

- Choose a majority of texts that depict positive images of older adults who are happy and healthy and engaged with daily life.
- Look for books with characters who have a range of warm, healthy loving relationships with others, both young and old.

Agism and age accuracy

- Beware of negative terminology in reference to aging.
- Avoid books with too many age-related markers such as walking sticks, decrepit appearance, hair in buns.
- Look for illustrations that offer realistic and respectful depictions of older adults: remember many grandparents of preschoolers and primary school children are in their fifties and sixties.

Diversity

- Grandparents and other older adult characters, and characters of all ages, should represent the diversity of our world (diversity in culture, language, race, countries of origin, religion, family structure, age and so on).
- Look for characters who are ‘grandfriends’ or ‘social grandparents’, who may not be related to a child (or children) but who have a significant role in their life.
- Show older characters who have diverse interests, hobbies, talents and professional responsibilities.

Continuity and lifelong growth and learning

- Find stories that demonstrate the continuity across different phases of life.
- Look for characters who continue to pursue their talents, hobbies and interests and remain creative and active.



When sharing books

If you're reading books aloud with individual or groups of children:

- Build intrigue from the first introduction of the book to the children.
- Take time to talk about the cover and the title and encourage the children to predict what the story might be about.
- Before you start reading, and depending on the age of the child or children, you can go on a picture walk – a walk through the book's illustrations to see what is happening.

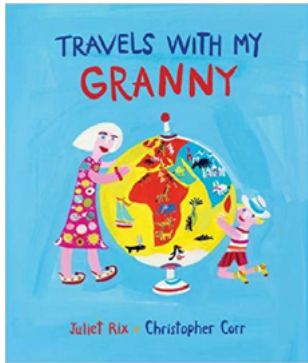
Try these conversation starters after you have finished reading the story:

- How would you describe [older character in book]?
- What kind of things do [younger character] and [older character] like to do together?
- Does [older character in book] remind you of anyone in your life?
- What do you admire about [older character]?
- What would you have done if you were [a character] in the story?
- What would you do if you had a problem like [older or younger character]?
- Did the book make you wonder about anything?
- Why do you think the author wanted to tell this story?

Remember, no single book can capture the range of life experiences and relationships across generations. Aim to collect a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction. We hope this guide can help you choose a rich selection from the available books.

Sharing books with intergenerational themes can also be part of a programme of activities in an early childhood setting or school or other spaces in the community where older adults and children spend time together. At the back of this guide you can find out more about organisations that provide information and resources about intergenerational practice.





JULIET RIX illustrated by CHRISTOPHER CORR
TRAVELS WITH MY GRANNY

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2018 (HBK) 32PP £11.99 ISBN 9781910959343

Granny may not be able to remember yesterday or move from her house, but she is able to bring her grandchild, and the reader, on a journey all over the globe. This thoroughly enjoyable book is a gentle introduction to ideas of dementia and memory loss. There is plenty to explore in the vivid illustrations and lots to learn, too, about each destination. This delightful book is not just about dementia, but about love, travel and the power of the imagination. (Age 0–4)



BLANCA GÓMEZ
BIRD HOUSE

ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS 2021 (HBK) £12.99 32PP ISBN 9781419744082

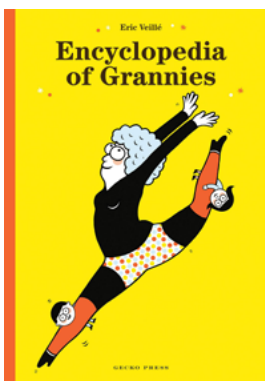
From inside Abuela's cosy and 'fantastic' city home, we see the seasons change, while an injured little bird is minded indoors until mended: something which could not have happened without the gentleness Abuela shows in caring for the natural world and for her small grandchild too. *Bird House* is a soul-warming picturebook that reveals to younger readers the lasting power of compassion and connection. An everyday urban setting is brought to life through warm colours, vivid illustrations and only the most important of words. A keeper of a book! (Age 0–4)



INBAL LEITNER
THE LONGEST STRONGEST THREAD

SCALLYWAG PRESS 2021 (PBK) 32PP £7.25 ISBN 9781912650613

A little girl is packing up her belongings to move to a distant new home. She is worried about the future and anxious about leaving her grandmother behind. If only there was a huge magnet that could keep her gran close by! In her textile studio, Grandmother recognises her granddaughter's unease and thinks up a clever solution. Leitner uses simple yet powerful text and equally minimal and effective illustrations. The book will delight and console children who face transition and change. And childhood is full of such transitions. (Age 0–7)



ERIC VEILLÉ
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GRANNIES

GECKO PRESS 2019 (HBK) 32PP £9.99 ISBN 9781776572434

In this eccentric directory, nanas, mimis, omas and gis explode with individuality: they dress differently, can be flamboyant or shy, and even have days when they feel like 'a lump of old mashed potato'. Each of these personalities is illustrated perfectly in cartoon-like fashion with tons of expression. This is a fun and tender reminder that grannies are a comfort and a constant, and even children who don't have their own granny still encounter them as part of daily life. Surely that's worth celebrating. (Age 0–7)



DAWN CASEY illustrated by **JESSICA COURTNEY-TICKLE**
MY NANA'S GARDEN

TEMPLAR PUBLISHING 2020 (PBK) 40PP £6.99 ISBN 9781787416635

A little girl visits her nana and helps her around her wild, lively, wonderful garden. As the seasons turn, life seems to retreat from this haven of nature and Nana's strength and health gradually fade too. After she dies, time seems to stop for the little girl, who gets stuck in a long winter, until the seasons, the years, and life itself reassert themselves again. The pared-down rhyming text and glorious illustrations convey a wealth of emotion with a great lightness of touch. Beautiful. (Age 3–7)



SADHBH DEVLIN maisithe ag **RÓISÍN HAHESSY**
GEANSAÍ OTTÓ

FUTA FATA 2020 (BOG) 32LCH €9.95 ISBN 9781910945599

Is breá le hOttó beag gléasadh go faiseanta, agus is breá lena Mhamó geansaithe thar a bheith neamhfhaiseanta a chniotáil dó. Ach lá amháin nuair a théann Ottó ar thuras fada in aimsir ghránna chun an cheist sin a phlé le Mamó, tuigeann sé luach na n-éadaí 'scríobachscrábach' a dhéanann sí dó. Scéal chomh teolaí le geansaí olla atá sa leabhar gleoite seo, a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar ghrá ó ghlúin go glúin, agus ar an gcníotáil. Cuireann na léaráidí galánta go mór le croíúlacht an scéil.

(Aois 3–8)



LAURA GEHL illustrated by **UDAYANA LUGO**
THE WINDOW

STUDIO PRESS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781787419834

When Daria visits her grandpa in hospital and they look out the window, they don't see the dull grey buildings that are there: they see a bright, lively ocean beach. The lovely intimacy and friendship between them endures even as Grandpa's health wanes and beyond his ultimate passing. A gorgeous story of love and grief that remains hopeful and makes room for big feelings while never being sentimental. The illustrations also offer warmth and reassurance, as does the note for parents and guardians at the end of the book.

(Age 4–7)



RAJANI LAROCCA illustrated by **ARCHANA SREENIVASAN**
WHERE THREE OCEANS MEET

ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS 2021 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781419741296

Sejal is excited to see 'the end of the world' for herself, located at the southernmost tip of India. But she soon realises that the journey she makes with her pati (her mother's mother) and her mother is just as magical as the final destination. The illustrations' gorgeously textured vibrancy and warm, rich palette bring cities, homes and landscapes to life. This book is a celebration of togetherness, female family members and the strength and unity between them: something that can be celebrated across all cultures.

(Age 4–7)



JESSICA LOVE
JULIAN IS A MERMAID

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406386424

Julian and Nana spot some beautiful mermaids on their way home from the pool, which inspires the little boy to play dress-up. But what will Nana think? An incredibly beautiful picturebook with minimal text and gorgeous illustrations, this book explores what it means to be yourself and to be loved unconditionally. (Age 4–7)



MARTIN STANEV
THE PLANET IN A PICKLE JAR

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2021 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781838740184

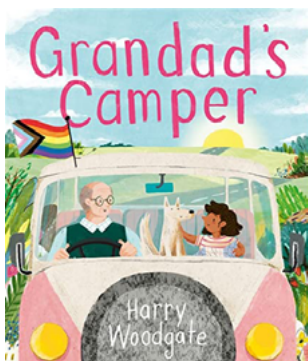
Visits to see Grandma are not something the two kids in this book look forward to. Too boring! But when Grandma goes missing, her grandchildren discover a whole new (and exciting!) side to her. With tons of quirky and fascinating details to spot, this debut picturebook is a delightful tale with the potential to spark many conversations about conservation and how we protect the things that matter most to us. But it's also a gentle reminder that we should cherish our grannies, grandpas and other relatives. (Age 4–7)



CLARE HELEN WELSH illustrated by ASHLING LINDSAY
THE TIDE

LITTLE TIGER PRESS 2020 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781788810869

Warmly illustrated, this book charts a busy day at the beach for a little girl and her grandad, while her interior monologue mulls over her discussions with her mum about her grandad's forgetfulness. Images and text wash in and out of the child's present experience and recent memories, and beautiful colours and shapes combine with an accessible and unsentimental text to create a cleverly comforting, coherent reflection on living and loving with dementia. (Age 4–7)



HARRY WOODGATE
GRANDAD'S CAMPER

ANDERSEN PRESS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781783449927

Grandad's Camper is a beautiful story of a modern mixed-race family experiencing loss. Grandad and Gramps's life together was filled with affection and adventure, but now that Gramps isn't around any more, Grandad just doesn't feel the same. Their granddaughter helps Grandad process his grief by revisiting treasured memories and honouring the exciting life the men had together. Through heartfelt storytelling and vibrant illustrations, Woodgate pays homage to family and LGBTQ+ experience, and reminds us to cherish the memory and legacy of our loved ones. (Age 4–7)



JR and JULIE PUGEAT
WRINKLES

PHAIDON 2019 (HBK) 40PP £12.95 ISBN 9781838660161

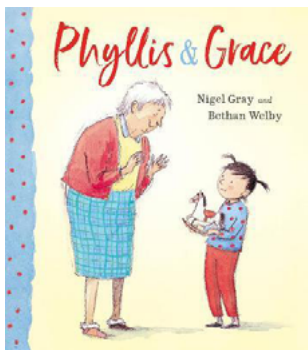
'We all have eyes, we all have a nose, we all have a mouth ... / And some of us have wrinkles ... / Wrinkles tell the story of someone's life.' This gorgeous collection of striking black-and-white photographic portraits on a flashy orange background invites young readers to observe, feel and investigate all the wrinkles sported by the people around them. What stories do they tell? What feelings do they show? Poring over each face, you will soon find yourself feeling as thoughtful, calm, happy or even cheeky as the models! (Non-fiction, Age 4–8)



MATT GOODFELLOW illustrated by YU RONG
SHU LIN'S GRANDPA

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2020 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781913074029

Shu-Lin starts in a strange new school and she doesn't speak much English. Can she make friends in this new environment? When her grandpa comes in to show the class his paintings, his dragons in dreamy landscapes bring everyone together. Shu-Lin teaches her classmates how to draw dragons, and they begin to realise they have more in common than they first thought. Wordless, picture-rich Grandpa widens everyone's horizons and helps create a new community of learners, artists and, eventually, friends in this beautiful book. (Age 5–7)



NIGEL GRAY illustrated by BETHAN WELBY
PHYLLIS & GRACE

SCALLYWAG PRESS 2022 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781912650514

Grace enjoys visiting her neighbour, Phyllis, even though Phyllis initially appears fairly eccentric and more and more forgetful, putting paintings in the fridge and filling the kettle with milk. Grace isn't fazed by Phyllis's progressing dementia and Phyllis, while increasingly confused, remains mostly cheerful and is always happy to see her young friend. The succinct, repetitive text manages both humour and empathy, while keeping the focus on this unusual but strong friendship. The illustrations strike a similar balance and infuse the story with a soft gentleness. (Age 5–7)



SOPHIE DAHL illustrated by LAUREN O'HARA
MADAME BADOBEDAH

WALKER BOOKS 2021 (PBK) 56PP £8.99 ISBN 9781406393002

This story's seaside setting is brought to life by vivid and captivating illustrations. Mabel is an adventurous only child whose playground is her parents' B&B. She decides to spy upon a mysterious new guest – Madame Badobedah. The two develop a friendship powered by make-believe, as the older lady's past is gradually revealed. This is a timeless story about the wonder of imagination and the value of intergenerational friendship. (Age 5–8)



ROXANE MARIE GALLIEZ illustrated by **SENG SOUN RATANAVANH**
THANK YOU, MIYUKI

PRINCETON ARCHITECTURAL PRESS 2020 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781616899011

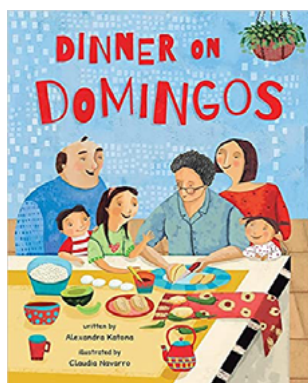
Early in the morning, Miyuki observes Grandpa practising tai chi. She tries herself but it is hard, and Miyuki goes to prepare tea instead. When she returns, Grandpa is sitting still, meditating, and Miyuki wants to meditate too. Quietly, Grandpa takes Miyuki's hand, and together they walk along the river, observing the clouds, drinking raindrops falling from the sky. A whole day passes peacefully in landscapes full of wonder. In this third story in the series, Miyuki and Grandpa discover the joys of sharing simple moments together. (Age 5–8)



MINA JAVAHERBIN illustrated by **LINDSEY YANKEY**
MY GRANDMA AND ME

WALKER BOOKS 2020 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406390834

From memories of her childhood, Iranian author Mina Javaherbin crafts a loving tribute to her grandmother in this moving picturebook. The soft pastel illustrations capture the small moments that created cherished memories, as Mina and her grandma wake up early for prayers, use an ingenious bread-delivery method and imagine a trip to the stars, her grandma's chadors serving as the rocket-ship. A gentle story, sure to strike a chord with anyone who loves their grandmother and treasures the times spent together. (Age 5–8)



ALEXANDRA KATONA illustrated by **CLAUDIA NAVARRO**
DINNER ON DOMINGOS

BAREFOOT BOOKS 2021 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781646862948

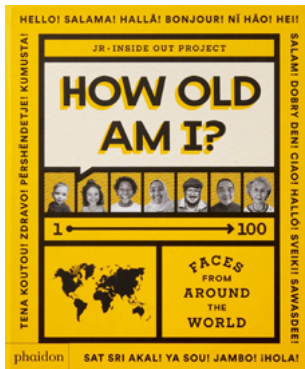
A recognisable story for first- or second-generation immigrants, showing the combining of two cultures and languages. Alejandra's favourite day of the week is Sunday, when she gets to spend the day with her large extended family. This book perfectly captures the warm chaos of a multi-generational family day (plus pets!). Alejandra's abuelita, who speaks mostly Spanish, is, like all good grandmothers, quietly at the centre of it all, keeping her culture alive and communicating vibrantly through food and music and dancing. A feast in every sense! (Age 5–8)



THE FAN BROTHERS
OCEAN MEETS SKY

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781786035622

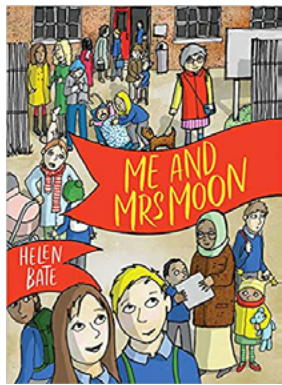
To honour his grandfather's memory, Finn builds a boat and starts on a journey they had planned to take together, to the place 'where ocean meets sky'. This stunning picturebook is a whimsical tale full of wonder, exploring longing, loss and legacy; it is, also, a joy to behold, with exquisite detail and lavish double-page spreads that draw you in and allow your eyes to linger. Touching on the restorative and redeeming power of nature and the joy of storytelling, this is a moving and emotive picturebook. (Age 5–8)



JR and JULIE R. PUGEAT
**HOW OLD AM I?
1-100 FACES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

PHAIIDON 2021 (HBK) 216PP £16.95 ISBN 9781838661588

This book visually highlights the ageing process, showcasing portraits of humans from across the world, starting with Gwen in the UK (aged one) all the way to Beatrice in the USA (aged one hundred). But more than that – it takes young readers around the world to hear different people’s backgrounds and life stories, opens up conversations about culture and family, puts value on life experience and introduces the concepts of emigration, immigration and travel. It serves to highlight our differences as well as our similarities and teaches the reader how to say hello in lots of languages. (Non-fiction, Age 6–10)



HELEN BATE
ME AND MRS MOON

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 48PP £9.99 ISBN 9781910959947

Maisie and Dylan’s older neighbour Mrs Moon may as well be another grandmother to them. But this close relationship is tested when a series of increasingly odd behaviours leads them to believe that Mrs Moon is not herself. They want to help her, but what can they do? This sensitive portrayal of the effects of dementia is emotional but rich, too, in humour and levity. An excellent book for families with affected loved ones, and a worthwhile graphic novel for the classroom library. (Age 8–12)



SOPHIE ESCABASSE
THE WITCHES OF BROOKLYN

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE 2020 (PBK) 240PP £9.99 ISBN 9780593119273

When Effie lands on Selimene and Carlota’s doorstep as an orphan, she has no idea that magic awaits inside. Selimene and Carlota (two older aunts she’s never met) are in fact witches and, as it turns out, Effie takes after them. A modern story of family, friendship and good witchcraft set in a busy New York neighbourhood, *The Witches of Brooklyn* is a great graphic novel with plenty of heart and humour – and some brilliant, strong characters that defy age stereotypes of all kinds. (Age 8–12)



JENNY PEARSON illustrated by DAVID O'CONNELL
GRANDPA FRANK'S GREAT BIG BUCKET LIST

USBORNE PUBLISHING 2022 (PBK) 336PP £6.99 ISBN 9781474974066

Frank inherits a fortune and a grandfather he didn’t know he had. The catch? He must spend the money on looking after Frank Senior Senior, and then, maybe, there’ll be a ‘greater reward’ for him. The duo of blustery, pig-headed and sometimes ‘fuzzy’ grandpa and cash-obsessed, secretly lonely grandson works to hilarious effect in this madcap adventure of disastrous dog shows and hot-air-balloon fiascos. There’s also plenty of heart as the characters eventually allow their hurt and hopes to surface and work towards the ultimate reward: family reconciliation. (Age 8–12)



ULF STARK illustrated by KITTY CROWTHERS **THE RUNAWAYS**

GECKO PRESS 2019 (PBK) 128PP £7.99 ISBN 9781776572342

Gottfried Junior is very close to his grandpa, who is seriously ill in hospital and hating every minute of his enforced rest. The pair are natural rebels, and soon they plot to 'spring' Grandpa from the hospital for one last adventure. Dealing with dark themes of sickness, death and family miscommunication in an honest way, *The Runaways* still manages to be an entertaining and sometimes very funny read. The text's wry humour is also reflected in the illustrations, which have a comic-book/graphic-novel feel. Highly recommended. (Age 8–12)



JASBINDER BILAN **ASHA AND THE SPIRIT BIRD**

CHICKEN HOUSE 2019 (PBK) 276PP £6.99 ISBN 9781911490197

This is a warm and heartfelt tale of a girl who travels across the Himalayas to search for her father. When Asha discovers that her papa has not sent any money in months and her family might lose their farm, she sets out on a journey to find him. Along with best friend Jeevan and a bird that Asha is certain is the spirit of her beloved Nanijee, they find adventure, hardship, courage and hope as they travel to bring Papa back home. (Age 9–11)



FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE illustrated by STEVEN LENTON **SPUTNIK'S GUIDE TO LIFE ON EARTH**

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 352PP £6.99 ISBN 9781529008814

Prez Mellows is sent from his home with his grandfather to stay with a foster family who are loud, warm and unable to see that newcomer Sputnik is not a dog but an alien intent on writing a guide to the best things about life on earth. With Prez in tow, Sputnik engages in some wild, hilarious and slightly illegal adventures, culminating in a reunion at the Shangri-La Nursing Home. This life-affirming story – funny and touching by turns – is a beautiful examination of the relationship between a boy and his grandfather. (Age 9–11)



ÁINE NÍ GHLINN **HATA ZÚ MHAMÓ**

COIS LIFE 2016 (BOG) 62LCH €7.00 ISBN 9781907494604

Is í Siobhán agus a mamó príomhcharachtair an scéil seo. Nuair a theastaíonn óna mamó éalú on teach altranais caithfidh sí dul i muinín an chailín óig. Le teann crógachta agus grá, éiríonn leo lá iontach a chaitheamh i measc cairde agus ainmhithe spéisiúla an zú. Ní dhéanann an t-údar iarracht deacrachtaí inchinne, ná taithí an duine atá ag dul in aois, a cheilt ar dhaoine óga. Siméadracht dheas atá sa chomhrá faoi hata iontach a mamó ag tús agus deireadh an scéil. (Aois 9–11)

Organisations on the island of Ireland implementing intergenerational programmes and providing information and resources about working intergenerationally



Age Action Ireland

ageaction.ie



Barnardos

barnardos.ie/our-services/work-in-schools/wizards-of-words



An Age & Opportunity arts initiative

Bealtaine Festival

bealtaine.ie



Dublin City University – Age Friendly Universities

dcu.ie/agefriendly



Linking Generations Northern Ireland

Linking Generations Northern Ireland

linkinggenerationsni.com



Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre

paveepoint.ie



Responding to the Opportunities and Challenges of Ageing in Ireland

Third Age

thirdageireland.ie/failte-isteach

Publication Partners



HIBERNIA COLLEGE

Together Old and Young (TOY) is an international programme and community of practice that promotes intergenerational learning (IGL). They support intergenerational activities worldwide through professional development, quality assessment and improvement. The TOY approach to IGL brings young children (0–8) and older adults together to share experiences, have fun, learn from each other and develop meaningful relationships.
toyproject.net

Hibernia College is a third-level college with over twenty years' experience providing flexible and innovative blended-learning graduate, postgraduate and professional education. They are an established leader in pioneering new education technologies and embracing change in the ever-evolving world of education, dedicated to helping professionals meet their current work challenges.
hiberniacollege.com





**Generations
Working
Together**



**children's
books
ireland**
every child a reader

Generations Working Together (GWT) is the nationally recognised centre of excellence supporting the development and integration of intergenerational work across Scotland. GWT is coordinating Global Intergenerational Week, 25 April to 1 May 2022. They aim to inspire people around the world to start or restart intergenerational connections and raise awareness about intergenerational practice.

generationsworkingtogether.org

Children's Books Ireland is the national organisation for children's books in Ireland. Through our many activities and events we aim to engage young people with books, foster a greater understanding of the importance of books for young people and act as a core resource for those with an interest in books for children in Ireland. Our vision is an Ireland in which books are central to every child's life and where meaningful engagement with books is supported by passionate and informed adults in families, schools, libraries and communities all across the island. Children's Books Ireland is an arts organisation with charitable status.

childrensbooksireland.ie



AGE RANGE 0–12

childrensbooksireland.ie

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