



Partnership for Children  
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Registered Charity Number 1089810



## MISSION

To help children and young people, throughout the world, develop skills which will enhance their present and future emotional wellbeing.

## Good Books for 23,000 UK schools

**G**ood Books for Tough Times, an independent guide to children's storybooks which deal with difficult feelings and situations, has just been sent to 23,000 head teachers across the UK.

It has also been made available online, with a facility to order each of the featured books directly from Amazon, via our website. Part of the purchase price will come to Partnership for Children.

The guide includes reviews of 59 books that are suitable for children aged five to eight, tackling topics from starting school to the death of a grandparent. All were chosen by Programme Director Caroline Egar in association with Booktrust.

**'An excellent publication for schools and parents.'**  
– Head teacher, Reading

'I'd like to get Good Books for Tough Times out to parents and relatives of young children,' says Caroline. 'We've sent copies to schools, but it will be just as useful for parents. You don't have to be someone who buys books, because most of the titles will be in your local library.'

To mark the publication, a new exclusive interview with leading children's author Jacqueline Wilson has been published online. The former Children's Laureate recognises the difficulty of juggling home and work life, but urges parents to make time to read with their children.

'If you haven't got time for a cuddle and to read together for 15 minutes every evening – well, maybe something needs to change,' she says.  
Good Books has been sent



Foreword by Jacqueline Wilson

## Good Books for Tough Times



Books for children aged 5 – 8

Partnership for  
Children

to 23,000 primary and infant schools through the National Association of Head Teachers, and the response has been very positive, with many schools wanting to buy all or some of the recommended books.

This distribution follows a successful mailing to public libraries last year, and has been made possible by a grant from The Dulverton Trust.

'Now we're looking for funding to produce a second version, recommending books suitable for nine to 12 year olds,' said Caroline.

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**Good Books for Tough Times - DIFFICULT FEELINGS**

**No Matter What**

Author Debi Glori  
Illustrator Debi Glori  
Reading age 6+  
Interest level 3+

**Review** 'I'm a grim and grumpy little Small and nobody loves me at all' says a little fox to his mother. In this beautifully illustrated picture book, Debi Glori cleverly depicts the worries of a small child, which are laid to rest by the mother fox assuring him of her unconditional love.

With simple rhyming phrases and humorous illustrations, the story shows how, whatever happens, the mother will always love her child - 'no matter what'.

**Publisher** Bloomsbury Children's Books  
**Published** 2003  
**Price** £5.99  
**ISBN** 9780747563310

## New Trustees

**T**wo new members have been appointed to our Board of Trustees.

Simon Armson was Chief Executive of Samaritans for 15 years. He is now a psychotherapist in private practice in the UK, and is also a Mental Health Act Commissioner and a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Marianne Ubbe from Denmark has been involved with Zippy's Friends since the first pilot study back in 1998. In 2002, she set up a new school and made Zippy's Friends an integral part of the curriculum.



## Happy Christmas!

**C**hildren taking part in Zippy's Friends in Iceland have drawn this year's Partnership for Children Christmas cards, which are now being sent out to supporters and partners around the world.



## Su Gimimo Diena, Zippy!

*(That's Happy Birthday in Lithuanian)*



Lithuanian and overseas delegates at the conference

**A** two-day international conference was held in Vilnius last month, to mark ten years of Zippy's Friends in Lithuania.

The opening session was held in the Seimas, Lithuania's Parliament, and speakers included the Minister for Education and Science and the Ombudsman for Children. Some 300 Lithuanian teachers attended the conference, together with participants from Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Norway, Poland and Singapore. The Amigos do Zippy team in Brazil sent a video message.

Zippy's Friends in Lithuania is managed by a small agency called Vaiko Labui ('for the

sake of the children'), and over the past ten years it has spread to every county in the country. More than 2,500 teachers have been trained, and more than 70,000 children have taken part.

Partnership for Children's Director Chris Bale spoke of how this success has paved the way for Zippy's Friends in other countries, and pointed out that the two biggest programmes – in Brazil and Poland – both grew from visits to Lithuania.

'The past ten years haven't been easy, and there were

times when the money almost ran out, but today the programme in Lithuania is stronger than ever,' he said. 'Our partners at Vaiko Labui have done a wonderful job.'



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