

# SI.

Swedish Institute.

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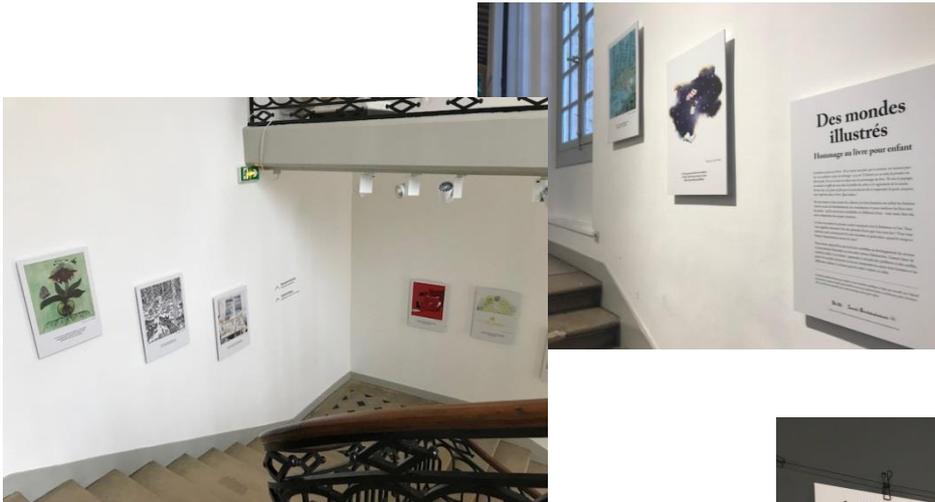
**Suggested events**

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**Children's literature**

## Introduction

‘Good literature gives the child a place in the world and the world a place in the child,’ Astrid Lindgren said. With the exhibitions *Where children grow* and *A tribute to children’s books*, we aim to promote literature from Sweden, promote reading and highlight the child perspective. *A tribute to children’s books* mainly focuses on reading promotion and includes illustrations, while *Where children grow* focuses mainly on characters and authors from Swedish children’s literature. They can both be used at for example book fairs, libraries or culture houses, with seminars and events arranged in connection.



As the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states, children have the right to information and the right to take part both in public and cultural life. We want to emphasise the importance of reading and creativity, and also make clear the pleasure and benefits to be derived from literature.



Can you introduce any topic in children’s books? Many Swedish books for young readers deal with subjects that adults may consider too advanced for children. Access to literature that all children are included in and feel a part of is an important issue for Sweden. To this end, international exchange is vital. Ensuring that books are translated and reach readers in different parts of the world is to further our awareness and understanding of one another. This is particularly important in the case of young readers. The topics suggested below can be combined.

## **Suggested topics**

*Reading promotion* is an important topic in Sweden and elsewhere, and it is often easy to find common challenges and interest in this field. Experts to invite from Sweden: reading promotion experts, reading ambassadors, representatives from the Swedish Arts Council or the Swedish Academy for Children's Books or authors who are interested in this topic. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers.

*Literature and education.* Access to literature in education is an important way to increase reading and access to books in children's lives. Experts to invite from Sweden: academics in children's literature or education, authors and illustrators. A local partner could, for example, be an institution of education. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers. Workshops for children can be held in connection to an event.

*Promotion of Swedish literature abroad.* Highlight famous authors like Astrid Lindgren or other newly published authors to draw attention to the tradition and importance of good children's literature. Invite an expert on Astrid Lindgren and/or a Swedish author or illustrator to talk or have a workshop. Partners of importance are local publishers and translators. Experts to invite from Sweden: academics in children's literature, authors and illustrators. Target group: decision makers, educators, librarians, media, publishers. Workshops for children can be held in connection to an event.

*Inspirational translators' meeting* about translating Swedish literature. Experts to invite from Sweden: authors. Target group: translators.

## **Suggestion on format**

We recommend you arrange a seminar and a workshop for a larger event. It is always great to open an exhibition in connection to a larger event, or example a national book fair. It is recommended to have a local partner.

The format of the event could be a smaller seminar, conference or roundtable, or a combination. You can also invite a speaker from Sweden if a local partner already is planning for an event. SI can support in choice of format. A reception at the embassy in the evening could also be a good way to conclude an event.

### *Experts*

Names of experts and contacts at the Swedish Academy for Children's Books can be obtained from the Swedish Institute. We encourage direct contact with local publishers of translated Swedish literature.

### *Local partner*

Please also involve your local partner as soon as possible. SI can help you with suggestions such as a ministry, library, children's books institute or similar.

### *Media*

Invite media to the larger event. Consider whether the Swedish experts could be of interest for separate media interviews, such as morning television or culture magazines.

## **Information about Swedish partners**

The Swedish Academy for Children's Books

The Swedish Institute for Children's Books

## **Swedish experts: make the most out of their visit**

When inviting experts, from the knowledge and position they have, please make sure their visit is taken care of in the best possible way. Make use of their time, ask the expert what he or she would like to do in connection to the event. Visit a school? Talk to media? Connect with a local partner?