

# Manual for 50 Years of Alfie Atkins Toolkit

With this toolkit, you can celebrate 50 years of Alfons Åberg — better known as Alfie Atkins in English. It features instructions and advice for hosting a party, an exhibition, a play area and reading corner, films, workshops for children, and group discussions for adults. This toolkit can be used in its entirety or only in pieces, depending on what is best suited for the local community. Start by researching, contacting, and establishing connections with potential publishers of the Alfie Atkins books in the country's language. SI has a list of contacts in some countries' publishing industries. If the books are not available in the country's language, the toolkit can be advantageous. It features a "Get to know Alfie Atkins" section included as part of the exhibition text. The toolkit is designed to also serve as an introduction for those who do not know Alfie Atkins and his world.

## Exhibition

The 50 years of Alfie exhibition consists of 16 displays, If the space is small, you can choose to display only the first eight displays. Each one measures 100 centimetres high and 70 centimetres wide, which fit the design for SI's exhibition modules. A local contractor can build the modules.

You'll find instructions for the exhibition modules and an application for financing their construction on the Sharing Sweden website at: <https://sharingsweden.se/toolkits/exhibition-module/>. The exhibition can also be placed on a wall with about 14 metres of available space. The exhibition text can be translated locally and sent to SI, which will set the text into the designs and send back files for printing locally. The exhibition display must be printed on a thick paper material, preferably Re-board® or another type of paperboard about five millimetres thick. The exhibition can be presented separately or in connection with the play area and reading corner.

## Play area and reading corner

Inspiration for creating the play area and reading corner can be found in the instructions "**Scenes and setting**", which is based on creating a playful, cosy and homely 70's environment. You can look for materials at home, borrow from others, and maybe even find some at a flea market.

A famous icon from the world of Alfie Atkins is the helicopter he makes in the classic book **Very Tricky, Alfie Atkins (Aja baja, Alfons Åberg)**. You can build a replica of that same helicopter locally.

Schematics, cutting templates, and instructions can be found in the "**Building Alfie's Helicopter**" section. You'll have to hire a local carpenter, preferably with a carpentry shop that has access to a CNC machine, as it will be cheaper and more precise than sawing out the parts. Be sure to request a quote beforehand. In Sweden, it costs approximately 15,000 SEK + VAT, including materials to build a helicopter replica.

The replica of Alfie's helicopter must be placed in an area that's sufficiently large enough for play. It's approximately 1,750 mm high and 600 mm X 600 mm wide in both directions. It was developed according to standard safety rules in the EU for structures. Adjacent to the replica of Alfie's helicopter should be five posters from the book **Very Tricky, Alfie Atkins**. By placing them in the proposed order of "Daddy", "bonk bonk", "flying", "help", "helicopter", they explain why the helicopter is so important to Alfie. If the book is available as a translation of the local language, it can also be a part of the presentation.

The toolkit also includes six colouring and activity pages in the “**Get to know Alfie Atkins**” and “**Quiz**” sections to print out for children who visit the play area and reading corner. In addition, there are a number of “**cut-outs**”, which can be printed with the same material used for the exhibition pieces, to hang from the ceiling in the play and reading environment. And a “standee” with Alfie and his father. This “standee” must be printed in thicker material (15mm) and provided with “feets” as it is described in the print files.

Various items for the play area and reading corner included in the “**Material to be sent from SI**” list are partly donated by Bok-Makaren, rights manager to Alfons Åberg, and several Swedish and Danish toy companies.

## **Movies**

Bok-Makaren has produced an exclusive film with the children Molly and Viggo visiting The Alfie Atkins Cultural Centre in Sweden. In the film they come home after a long playful day, like Alfie to his apartment building just like in the books. The film is sent as an mp4 file, the film is five minutes long and can be looped on a screen in the play area and reading corner. The film works across language boundaries. A text sign is available to translate to introduce the film to visitors.

SVT’s 10-minute film **Good Night, Alfie Atkins** will be part of this toolkit and can also be shown in the play area and reading corner. The voice-over narration is in English, but the book can be read in the local language before the film screening. In countries where the book is not published in the original language, text to read aloud can be translated locally. But those reading the book to an audience must begin by informing them the text has been translated for that specific purpose. It is important that any local translation of the book is only used for that purpose.

## **Birthday party**

In the “**Throw your own Alfie Atkins party**” section, there are suggestions for decorations, what treats to offer, and games to play. There are also templates for posters and invitations to fill in with local information about the time and place of the party. In addition, print files with party pennants. An Aunt Fifi costume, which can be worn by an adult hosting the party and greeting the children, is not included in “**Material to be sent from SI**” but can be sent upon request.

## **Social media**

Included in the material is a “**Social Media suggestions**” section. We have tried to create interactive content for social media to try to reach a wider audience through local communication channels.

## **Workshop for kids**

In the “**Hold a workshop**” section, there are four suggestions for workshops to run with groups of children. All are inspired by the Alfie Atkins books and their author Gunilla Bergström.

## **Group discussions for adults**

The target for Alfie Atkins-themed group discussions is any adult who works with children and focuses on teaching, psychology and children's literature. The following four themes based on the books (education, emotions, friendship and fatherhood) are described in "**Group discussions about Alfie Atkins books**".

The discussion can be held both virtually and in person, and Swedish participants can be invited. Proposals for Swedish participants are handled through Bok-Makaren and SI. And any fees are financed through the toolkit funds. The toolkit includes the essay "Who is Daddy Atkins?" written by Alfie Atkins creator Gunilla Bergström. It's a fantastic piece and is a recommended basis for group discussions about Alfie Atkins.