



Description of Reading Promotion Activity / Action THE "READING BUG" BACKPACK LIBRARY	
Reaches disadvantaged pupils / families	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes but not only
Multilingual activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Action especially for	<input type="checkbox"/> girls <input type="checkbox"/> boys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both
Involves parents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Utilizes ICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Objective (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage children in reading for pleasure and enhance their reading habits. • Children to interact within reading communities, playing, communicating, and discussing book- and reading-related issues. • Children to come in touch with a considerable number of texts. • To discover the variety of books available to them.
Age level (s)	10 - 11
Preferable number of participants	A school class (5 - 30)
Duration	5 weeks
Setting, materials, and preparation	<p>Materials: A backpack with some 40 carefully selected books, PCs to write in the Blog about the encounters with the selected books, a map of the school classes or of the schools in order to mark the journey of the back pack of books.</p> <p>Preparation: Free reading hours at school and reading at home.</p> <p>Setting: classroom</p>
Step -by-step description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff arranges for free reading hours during the school day, which is very important for developing reading ability and for the socialization of children. 2. During these hours children have the possibility to



	<p>choose from a wide range of books from the “Backpack Library,” choosing subjects, genres or level of difficulty is suitable for them. Some forty novels, paperbacks, and comic books with different levels of difficulty are offered to children from the 5th and 6th grades at the beginning of the calendar year. The back packs include some of the newest publications and are carefully selected, in collaboration with professionals in the field.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The backpack remains in a class for about five weeks. Pupils are allowed to use the books free of charge, which means they receive books to read during the reading hours in the class room and can also take the books at home. 4. 2 out of the 40 books in the backpack are carriers of the “Reading Bug.” They are selected by the teacher of the class but children don’t know which these books are. 5. Soon the Reading Bug infects all the class; children read everywhere. At the end of the Reading Bug Weeks, the secret is revealed and the two children who were the first to read the carriers of the Reading Bug take the backpacks to the next class (or to the next school). 6. When the two carriers of the backpack appear in the next class, the lesson is interrupted and free time for reading is granted. 7. Together with the children, the teacher establishes contact with another class and set a date for the transfer of the “Backpack Library.”
Notes to reading promotion facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A map can show the movement of the Backpack Library from class to class in the school. • Students should be given enough time to select books to read according to their preferences.
Suggested follow-up actions/ activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children use a Reading Bug Blog on the school web site to write about their encounters with the backpack books, and share their impressions, reading experiences and feelings. They present the books, criticize them, or recommend them further; express their opinion on the topics; describe the characters; develop their own story inspired by the book they have read; take photos of their beloved reading place and post the photos on the blog. They can also mark



	<p>the recent location of the Reading Bug back packs on an interactive school map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation with other schools or libraries could enlarge the number of participants in the project.
Acknowledgements	Adapted from SIKJM.
Sources	SIKJM: http://www.sikim.ch/d/?/d/lesefoerderung/projekte/lesebazillus.html and www.lesebazillus.ch