

Julie Kennedy Fogarty

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CONTACT DETAILS

E juliekennedyfogarty@gmail.com
www.juliekennedyfogarty.com



JKF
JULIE KENNEDY FOGARTY
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

Julie Kennedy Fogarty is a children's author, entrepreneur and founder of an independent Irish publishing business based in County Tipperary. She creates beautifully illustrated picture books that inspire kindness, courage, confidence and emotional resilience in young children, with stories that are enjoyed by families across Ireland.

Julie holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Limerick and has more than fifteen years' experience in banking, strategy, research and consultancy. Drawing on this commercial background, she has successfully combined her business expertise with her passion for storytelling to build a growing publishing business.

After studying children's literature and picture book writing, Julie published her debut title, *Reuben's Hunt for a Home*. Since then, she has written six picture books, all written and printed in Ireland. Her books are stocked nationwide through retailers including Tesco, Dunnes Stores and the Kilkenny Group, as well as independent bookshops, public libraries, gift shops and visitor attractions including Fota House, Blarney Castle, Strokestown Park House and a growing number of heritage destinations across Ireland.

Julie's work has received recognition both in Ireland and internationally. Her debut title, *Reuben's Hunt for a Home*, was shortlisted in two categories at the UK Ink Book Awards, while two of her later titles were longlisted in the 2026 CAP Awards. In 2026, she was selected by Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Tipperary to exhibit at Showcase Ireland 2027, recognising the growth and export potential of her publishing business.

Julie joined the ACORNS programme to strengthen the commercial growth of her business, refine her strategy and prepare for the next stage of expansion. Through ACORNS, she has gained invaluable mentorship, practical business guidance and a supportive network of ambitious female entrepreneurs.

Looking ahead, Julie's ambition is to build a recognised Irish children's publishing brand with an international reach. She is focused on expanding retail partnerships, increasing export opportunities and creating timeless stories that become treasured by children and families for generations.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine