



# Charlie and Lola™



Press Pack

**tigeraspect**  
PRODUCTIONS

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BBC

# Contents

**03** Foreword by Alison Sharman

**04** Background info

**05** Interview with Charlie and Lola creator,  
author and illustrator Lauren Child

**08** Character outlines

**10** Episode synopses

**17** Online page

**19** TX info



# foreword

We're all **hugely** excited about **Charlie and Lola** coming to join us at CBeebies.

I'm extremely proud to have this series as part of our offering as not only is it UK-originated, but it also has a magical quality about it which seems to chime with both children and adults. It tackles all those big issues for young children like losing a tooth, not liking certain foods, learning to say sorry, in a way that not only makes sense to them, but is also very funny and entertaining.

The animation is unique and like nothing I've ever seen. Above all the series has a gorgeous child-like quality and is entirely voiced by children. We know everyone who watches it will fall in love with it.

Tiger Aspect have done a fantastic job on bringing the books by the wonderful Lauren Child to life, and we're hoping that generations of CBeebies viewers will enjoy the programme for years to come.

We do hope you love Charlie and Lola as much as we do – you can catch the whole series on CBeebies in November. We have already commissioned new episodes for next year so it's going to be a one of our key series for quite some time to come.

**Alison Sharman**

Controller, CBBC and CBeebies







"I have a little sister called Lola and she is small and very funny.

Sometimes I have to keep an eye on her. This can be a hard job because Lola is **extremely** busy doing lots of things all at once."

Based on the award-winning books by Lauren Child, Charlie and Lola is a charming and imaginative new animation series which will captivate pre-school children and their parents alike.

Charlie is seven- he likes rockets, making racing cars and playing football with his friend Marv who lives downstairs. Lola is four, but very nearly five. She likes pink milk, chimpanzees and her best friend Lotta. She is fascinated by everything and very independent!

As they come up against life's daily problems (be it a spider or learning how to share), they use their own method of problem solving: imagination and fantasy. And when Lola is unsure or worried, Charlie is there to support her with humour and logic.

Aimed at three to seven-year-olds, the series is voiced by children and revels in their language, but the key to the series lies in the special relationship shared between two siblings. Completely animated in the UK and reflecting the style of the books which have won acclaim the world over, Charlie and Lola is characterized by distinctive and imaginative production techniques, using two-dimensional animation combined with a 'cut-out' style, film archive and photographs.

Author, Illustrator, Creator & Associate Producer - Lauren Child

Series Producer – Claudia Lloyd

Director - Kitty Taylor

Art Director - Leigh Hodgkinson

Writers - Carol Noble, Bridget Hurst, Dave Ingham, Samantha Hill

Executive Producer – Andrew Zein

Tiger Aspect Productions leads the field as one of the UK's most successful and prolific independent television producers, working across a broad range of genres including animation, comedy, drama, entertainment and factual programming.

Executive producer for the BBC is



# Interview with Lauren Child

## Writer, illustrator and creator of Charlie and Lola

Author Lauren Child is thrilled to see Charlie and Lola come alive. "It's very exciting because I always wanted them to go on TV," she says. And though she's found the process hard work ("I'm very pernickety," she admits with a smile) and slow going, she says it's all been worth it.

"It's been really good and the thing I've really liked about it is what I very much wanted, that adults and children would find it amusing in different ways, and that's definitely been what's come across," she says. "Listening to adults talking about it is really nice – we had a sense that it would work for children, obviously, but I also had this thing all the time that I wanted it to be something that parents wouldn't mind having on in the background and then might get interested in too. It was never going to be one of those annoying shows where it's just lots of noise and you only engage with it if you're the right age, and I think we've succeeded in that so I'm really happy."

But while Lauren is keen that adults like the Charlie and Lola stories – after all, as she says, they're the ones who are going to be reading them over and over to their children – she didn't want any of them to appear in the books.

"A lot of life when you're growing up, certainly I found anyway with my sisters, you spend a lot of time together and your parents are doing other things and so they might be around but they're not really taking part in your games or discussions or arguments or whatever it is you're doing. I thought it would be interesting to see life acted out with just siblings, and that whole imaginative side of being a child."

*"I thought it would be interesting to see life acted out with just siblings"*

And young Lauren and her sisters sometimes imagined they had a brother... "I have an older sister and a younger sister and my older sister was desperate to have an older brother, we all felt we'd like to have one," she says a tad wistfully. And of course, he'd have had to have been like Charlie! "That's what one would have hoped, but I don't know that many Charlies I have to say, I think he's quite a rare thing," she grins.





But though Charlie may be pure imagination, Lola was sparked into life by a real little Danish girl.

"I was travelling with my Danish boyfriend through Denmark on a train and there was a child who kept asking her mum and dad all these questions all the time, and my boyfriend was translating for me. She was an incredibly sweet-looking child and she looked very like Lola; she was just such a character and there was something about her, the way she was dressed and everything, and so I drew a picture of her and then I thought of a story that would work with that kind of character," Lauren explains. "That's really where it came from, just seeing somebody that I thought was rather enchanting and then I worked a story around that character, which I don't normally do."

*"She was an incredibly sweet-looking child and she looked very like Lola"*

Lauren's stories are firmly rooted in issues relevant to small children.

"For Charlie and Lola I set myself quite strict rules in that I only ever do stories that are based on things, very tiny child issues about sleeping and eating. We've managed to think of a lot of those for the TV series. I think the best ones work when they're things about being envious, or not wanting to give someone a present because you want it, the really tiny subjects which actually apply to everybody. There's an episode we've done where Lola breaks Charlie's rocket that he's made and that thing about having to say sorry and own up to something applies to me now!

"Most of these things are just bigger for children because they haven't learnt how to deal with those situations so they seem much more scary. But I think pretty much everything, even the fussy eater thing where you go to dinner with somebody and you have to eat something you don't like, it carries on applying at any age."

# Lauren Child

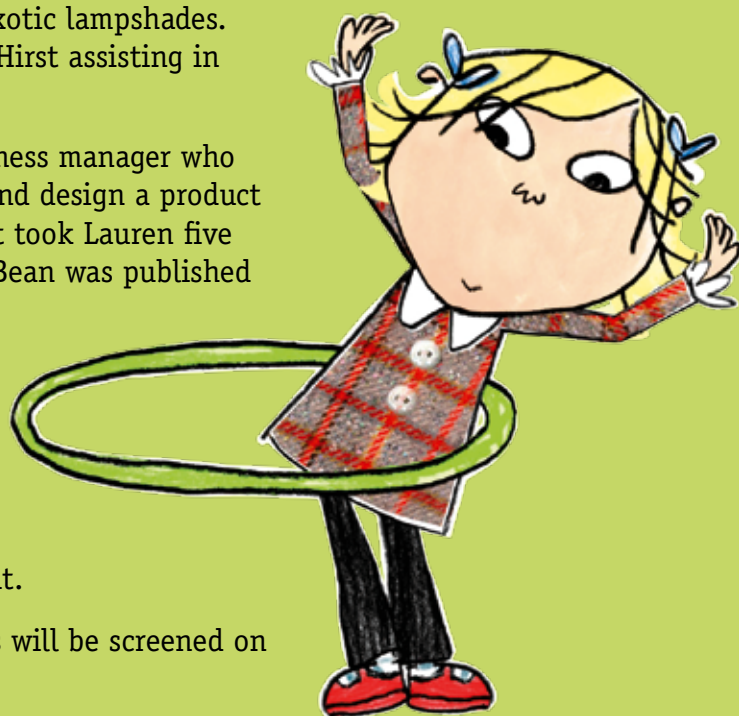
## Biography

Lauren Child is the best-selling author and illustrator of the Clarice Bean series and the hugely popular Charlie and Lola books, including *I Will Not Ever, Never Eat a Tomato*.

Lauren Child was born in 1967 and grew up in Wiltshire, the middle child of three sisters and the daughter of teachers. Her father was an art teacher and she went to sixth form in the school where he taught. She studied at City and Guilds Art School. She admits that she did not learn much at art school, and left after a year. She had a variety of jobs including starting her own company making exotic lampshades. She also spent some time working for Damien Hirst assisting in his studio.

The turning point came after talking to a business manager who suggested she should write a children's book and design a product range around it. The result was Clarice Bean. It took Lauren five years to find a publisher, and the first Clarice Bean was published in 1999 by Orchard. Her work combines her fascination with childhood and her talent for designing and creating. Lauren was shortlisted for the Smarties Prize for Clarice Bean, *That's Me* and in 2001 won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal for *I Will Not Ever, Never Eat a Tomato*. Lauren won the Smarties Gold Award in 2002 for *That Pesky Rat*.

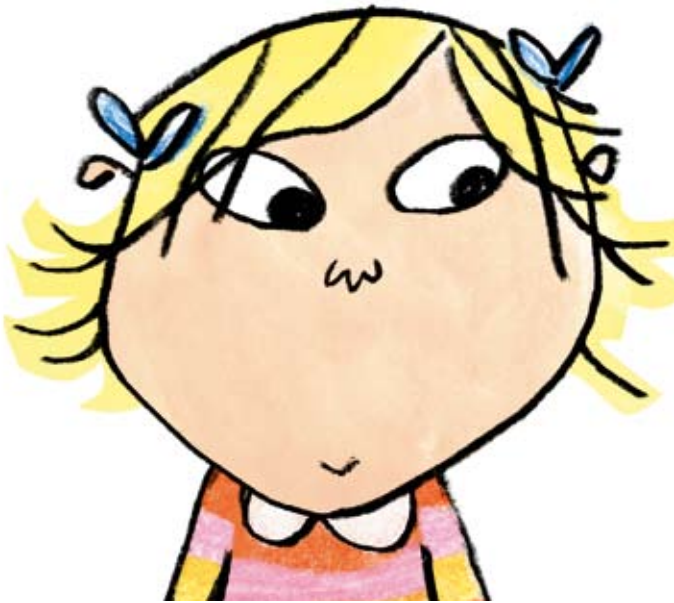
In 2005, her top-selling Charlie and Lola series will be screened on CBeebies for the first time.





# Character Outlines

## Lola



Lola is 4, nearly 5. She knows her mind. She likes swimming with whales in the bath, she LOVES pink milk, and her best friend Lotta. She loves bouncing, and scribbling and colouring. She also likes Sizzles, Marv's dog. And don't forget Soren Lorensen, her imaginary friend. No one can see him except Lola. She knows what she likes, and feels extremely, ever so strongly about it. She doesn't like mushrooms, numbers bigger than ten or itchy jumpers. She will not ever, NEVER eat a tomato. She's not deliberately difficult.....she's innocent and imaginative. And she loves her brother Charlie.

## Charlie

Charlie is 7 years old. He likes playing football, making racing cars and rockets. He also likes Lola, his younger sister. Lola makes him laugh a lot, she's illogically logical and very very funny. Together they can go anywhere and be anything. Charlie looks out for Lola and inspires her. As well as being with Lola, Charlie likes to hang out with his best friend Marv – who isn't imaginary.







## Soren Lorenson

Soren Lorenson is Lola's imaginary friend, her confidante, her security blanket. Sometimes, he acts as Lola's true voice and speaks Lola's thoughts: should she be naughty or should she be good? When someone else is in the room, he's transparent and only Lola can communicate with him. However when they are left alone they can talk openly and put the world to rights, in a way only a little person can.

## Lotta

Lotta lives down the road, in a little house. She is the same age as Lola, although smaller. They met on their first day at school. They have a giggly, over-excited relationship, chatting and holding hands a lot. They copy each other the whole time, and they think they're whispering when in fact they are talking very LOUDLY indeed. Lotta is a little bit in awe of Lola and usually led by her suggestion. She's a LOT in awe of Charlie and Marv, and Sizzles, the dog.



## Marv

Marv and Charlie are the same age and the best of friends. They go to the same school and they live in the same block of flats. Marv lives downstairs and has a very stupid sausage dog called Sizzles. Marv and Charlie love playing football in the park and making things together, assault courses for dog training, castles and outer space music.

# Episode Synopses

## I AM NOT SLEEPY AND I WILL NOT GO TO BED



Will Lola ever be sleepy enough to go to bed, Charlie wonders? She drinks pink milk with tigers, cleans her teeth with a lion, shoos whales down the plughole and has a pyjama party with some dancing dogs. When at last, Charlie manages to get his little sister to feel sleepy, there's a surprise waiting for him in his bed.

## WE DO PROMISE HONESTLY WE CAN LOOK AFTER YOUR DOG

Lola and her friend Lotta know everything there is to know about dogs. So they're really pleased when Marv lets them look after his dog Sizzles in the park. They stroke him, they pat him, they groom him. It's all going well until Sizzles disappears. And when they find him – there isn't just one Sizzles but two! How will they tell them apart?



## I AM HURRYING I'M ALMOST NEARLY READY



Charlie wants Lola to hurry or they'll be late for school. But there are so many exciting things to do on the way that Lola keeps getting distracted. There's colouring, and dancing with clouds, playing hopscotch on musical pavements and giggling with hysterical hedgehogs. Charlie has to come up with a cunning ruse to get his little sister to hurry up... You wouldn't want to miss Dragon Day at school, would you?

## THERE IS ONLY ONE SUN AND THAT IS ME

It's the school play and Lola is determined to be The Sun. She knows the part will be hers because yellow is her favourite colour. She was born to play the sun! Imagine her disappointment when she finds out that she's a leaf. And not only that, she's a boring brown autumn leaf. But with Charlie's help, Lola discovers how leaves are far from boring. And when the big day arrives, Lola is the best leaf in the whole wide forest.



## I WILL NOT EVER NEVER EAT A TOMATO

Lola is a very fussy eater, she won't eat mushrooms, or peas or fishfingers and she will never ever eat a tomato! Charlie helps her to discover that peas are really green drops from Green Land and mashed potato is cloud fluff from the pointiest peak of Mount Fuji. But will she eat that tiny weeny tomato? Never! But she might just eat a moonsquirter.



## BUT THAT IS MY BOOK



You have to be quiet when you're in a library. But that's very hard for Lola when she can't find her absolutely most favourite book - "Beetles Bugs and Butterflies." Charlie introduces her to books about Dinosaurs and books about Romans and he even takes her into a beautiful Chinese pop up book. But nothing matches "Beetles Bugs and Butterflies." Or does it?

## I'M REALLY EVER NOT SO WELL

Charlie has promised Marv that he'll play football with him but poor Lola has a very nasty cold and is stuck in bed. She begs Charlie to stay with her. Charlie tries all sorts of ways of making her feel better and a butterfly chase Flutterby Mountain finally does the trick. Will Charlie ever make it to his football match?



## I LIKE MY HAIR COMPLETELY THE WAY IT IS



It's that time when Charlie and Lola have to get their haircut. But something's bothering Lola and she doesn't want to tell us what it is. She just wants to keep her hair completely the way it is. Lola wants her hair long so that she can sit on it and look like a princess. Then Charlie wonders if she's scared. Absolutely not! She's not scared of the snippy scissors, of hairdressers ... of anything! But don't let that hairbrush get near her knots...



## I CAN DO ANYTHING THAT'S EVERYTHING ALL ON MY OWN

Today Lola wants to do everything that's anything all on her own. In the park, Charlie and his friend Marv persuade her that a see saw won't "see" or "saw" with only one person. When the boys get on the other end up goes Lola, high in the sky, where she sees things she could only dream of. And, what's more, she saves Marv and Charlie from the ever so evil pirates. All on her own.



## BOO! MADE YOU JUMP!



It's ever so easy for Charlie to make Lola jump. But what Lola wants more than anything is to make Charlie jump. This proves quite tricky. Lola tries everything. She asks her best friend Lotta and Marv to help her make Charlie jump. They try hiding, ghosts and really really scary stories. Soon Charlie, too, is longing to jump. Will nothing work?

## THE MOST WONDERFULLEST PICNIC IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD

You can't have a picnic without swirly tennis and boildy eggs and of course sunshine. Lola, Lotta, Charlie and Marv are really excited because they have all of those things. But just as the fun is about to begin, the storm clouds gather. Luckily, Charlie knows how the desert people have picnics indoors and a potential disaster turns into the most wonderfulest picnic ever.



## IT WASN'T ME!



Charlie wins first prize at school for his fantastic home made rocket which he made from 10 yoghurt pots and some extra wide tin foil. As he puts his rocket safely away on the top shelf he explains to Lola that the rocket really isn't a toy and she must absolutely promise not to touch it or play with it. Then Lola and her imaginary friend, Soren Lorensen, find that they have to transport an elephant back to the jungle, Soren persuades Lola that the rocket is a really good idea. But it isn't. Whoops!

## IT'S A SECRET



Lola has to keep Charlie's birthday surprise a big secret. And it's really, really hard to keep secrets. To stop Lola from telling him, Charlie decides to try to "guess" the surprise by coming up with the most extraordinary suggestions. Through this he discovers it is old and big and scary. But nothing could ever have prepared Charlie for the best birthday surprise ever.

## I LOVE GOING TO GRANNY AND GRANDPA'S ...IT'S JUST THAT.....

Granny and Grandpa's house is by the sea where there are pony rides and lovely things to eat, a big dressing up box and Caspar the Cat. But Lola is worried that Soren Lorensen, her imaginary friend, might miss her while she's away. Charlie solves that problem. Then she says she can't go away because Mum and Dad might miss her. Charlie comes up with another solution. But Lola still doesn't want to go to Granny and Grandpa's... why? Ohhh, it's because she might miss Mum and Dad. Can Charlie put her little troubled mind at rest?



## I DO NOT EVER NEVER WANT MY WOBBLY TOOTH TO FALL OUT



Lola is horrified because she has her first ever wobbly tooth and she does not ever, never want her wobbly tooth to fall out. She doesn't want a big gap in her teeth even if Charlie does say that she'll grow another one which is stronger and better. No, Lola's tooth is absolutely not going to fall out... not until she discovers there a Tooth Fairy! Who brings PRESENTS! Suddenly she can't get that tooth out fast enough.

## SAY CHEESE

To please Mum, Lola is determined to stay clean and tidy for her very first school photograph. And Lola's not very good at staying clean and tidy. What makes it even harder to achieve is that there's a water-tray, school lunch and painting class before the school photograph happens. But, as ever, Charlie and Lola find a way of producing a really absolutely very special photo of Lola after all.



## I'M JUST NOT KEEN ON SPIDERS



Lola likes all sorts of creepy crawlies, she's just not keen on spiders. Charlie tries to show Lola that spiders aren't bad at all, infact they're really quite clever. He shows her that spiders can walk upside down, and build fantastic webs that are bouncy like trampolines. Soon Lola gets very attached to a little spider they've found in the house and, before we know it, she's given him a name, made him his own house, found him a friend and is throwing a spider tea party.

## YOU WON'T LIKE THIS PRESENT AS MUCH AS I DO

It's Lotta's birthday and of course Lola wants to buy her friend the very best present in the whole wide world. She is over the moon when she finds the very thing... a Doctor's kit! But it's really hard to give your best friend the best present ever when you really, really like the present yourself!



## I MUST TAKE COMPLETELY EVERYTHING



Lola is packing to go to Lotta's for the night. And she is packing everything because her and Lotta are going to play Cinderella! This means that Charlie and Marv can have the whole bedroom to themselves to set up an enormous race track of their own. Disaster strikes when Lola realises she has left her suitcase at home and Charlie and Marv find they are missing a really important piece of track. Imagination comes to the rescue in the form of a teaspoon and an intergalactic space race. But where exactly did that missing bit of track go?

## I WANT TO PLAY MUSIC TOO!

Introducing Charlie on clarinet and Marv on keyboards! The boys are presenting a piece all about Outer Space accompanied with music in front of the whole school tomorrow in assembly. Lola is desperate to join in. But it takes a lot of time and hard work to learn how to play an instrument. Lola is not deterred. Improvising instruments is much more fun and, what's more, Lola's makeshift band turns out to be just what's needed.





## I'M FAR TOO EXTREMELY BUSY



Lola simply doesn't have time to play today; she's far too extremely busy organising her office full of mermaids, running her own café, dentist and library. She's far too busy to play with Charlie, or Lotta, or even her imaginary friend Soren Lorensen. So she couldn't possibly find the time to play Charlie's new card game – Flip Flop. However, when Marv comes round to play cards, Lola isn't sure that being extremely busy all the time is quite such a good idea.

## I WANT TO BE MUCH MORE BIGGER LIKE YOU

Life's just not fair when you're always the smaller one... you can't go to bed late, you can't get your own pink milk and you can't go on the Super Dooper Loop the Looper ride at the fair. Lola does everything she can to make herself taller - imagining she's a sunflower, a skyscraper and even the tallest mountain in the world. Charlie tries to point out all the advantages of being small... and they even swap places. But Lola remains unconvinced. Only the sight and noise of the really scary Loop the Looper makes her change her mind.



## MY LITTLE TOWN



Sharing the "My Little Town" play set that Granny and Grandpa gave them proves a bit of a challenge for Charlie and Lola. Lola wants big flowers and trees and butterflies and a zoo house. While Charlie wants an airport with a control tower and a huge runway. Before long, Charlie gets quite carried away, hogs the whole game and is intent on saving his little world. Lola is understandably very upset. Can she forgive Charlie and help him out with the Martian invasion?

## BUT I AM AN ALLIGATOR

Dressing up is one of Lola's absolutely favourite things to do and now she's got this fabulous new alligator costume, she's not ever going to take it off... not ever!. Snap! Snap! Snap! And to Charlie's embarrassment Lola wears her alligator costume everywhere... the supermarket, the park and she even plans to wear it for her school talk called "All about Me!". Oh No! What is Charlie going to do to stop her making a fool of herself?!



## I'VE WON, NO I'VE WON, NO I'VE WON

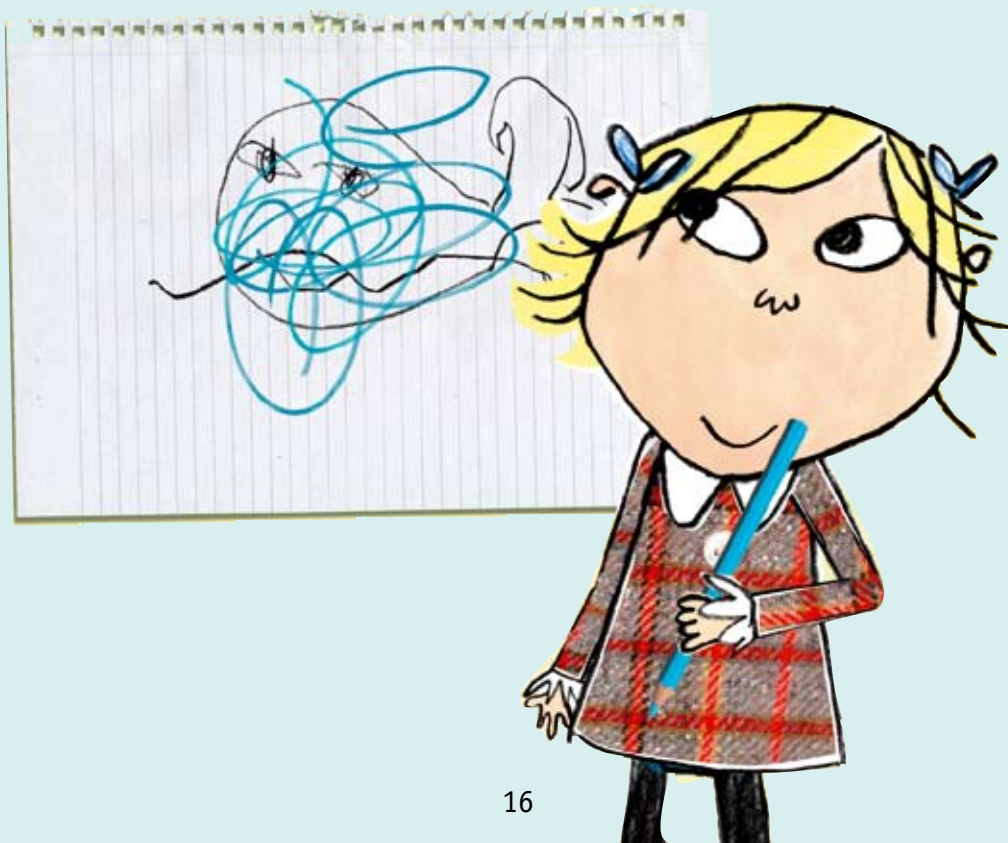
Lola simply has to win all of the time. She can run faster than a cheetah, she can bounce higher than a kangaroo and she can stand on one leg for longer than a flamingo. She beats Charlie at snakes and ladders by climbing up a slippery snake. Could this be cheating? But when Charlie wins the race round the park, a tired little Lola points out that you don't have to win all the time... or maybe you do.



## SNOW IS MY FAVOURITE AND IS MY BEST



Snow is on the way and Lola is bursting with excitement. Lola just loves snow. After she finally gets to sleep, she wakes up the next morning to find that everything has gone completely, extremely white! Charlie, Lola, Marv, Sizzles and Lotta have a wonderful time in the park. They make snow angels and have snow races and Lotta and Lola even make a snow dog. Snow really is the best thing ever!...until it melts. Charlie helps a very disappointed Lola see that snow is even more special because it isn't there all of the time.



# Charlie and Lola Online

Join Charlie and Lola in their unique world on line for more fun and a lot of activities.

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola) is the online experience that offers kids an interactive and stimulating background inspired by the CBeebies series and takes them on magical journeys of fantasy and discovery with Charlie and Lola.

The website reflects the captivating style of the books and series reproducing on line the distinctive production techniques; two-dimensional images combine 'with a cut-out' style and the iconic imaginary and patterns become part of the background while the distinctive voices of Charlie and Lola accompany the users throughout their journey.

Charlie and Lola is easy to navigate and can be equally enjoyed by kids and parents. In a series of clicks of fantasy between the virtual pages, it encourages the kids to use their own unique logic and imagination.

Clicking on 'Stories' kids can view animated short versions of the episodes shown on CBeebies and access collectible printable makes and activities found at the end of each story. 'Colour and makes' brings more fun with one of Lola's favourite activities, colouring and sticking, for the kids to create their own fantasy world.

Children can also click on 'Fun and Games' for a hop on the clouds to help Charlie and Lola catch butterflies that pass by and reach Butterfly Mountain.

Or users can click again for a dressing-up role play game to combine all the costumes that Charlie and Lola wear throughout the series, and create new ones.

The website also includes a range of e-cards for different occasions such as the 'most wonderfulest birthday ever' and screensavers and wallpapers to enjoy the magic of Charlie and Lola for a bit longer.

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/charlieandlola) goes live in November and is an exciting experience that children and parents can share together. For even more activities and fun click on [www.charlieandlola.com](http://www.charlieandlola.com)

