

# “Publish” a Book

This strategy:

- Creates opportunities to practice writing simple, compound, complex, and compound complex sentences depending on your child's writing level.
- Allows kids to actively use and stretch their imagination throughout the summer.

Writing often for short amounts of time is more beneficial than writing periodically for a long time. This activity encourages kids to creatively write a little each day with the goal of “publishing” a story by the end of summer. Build your child's interest in writing a story by:

- Determining who the book will be shared with when complete (siblings, at the family reunion, the grandparents are visiting in August, etc.).
- Creating a special writing nook.
- Searching together for materials to use to make the book.
- Going on some summer adventures as a way of researching possible topics and themes for the story. Take pictures, video tape special sites, record ideas so as not to forget.

## **Materials (suggestions only - use what is available):**

- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens
- Construction paper or other colored paper
- Lined paper or white typing paper
- Coloring books and old magazines for pictures
- Scissors and glue
- Cardboard (for the book's cover)
- Tape, string, or yarn for binding the book.

## **Ways to support the learner**

1. Don't start from scratch. Rewrite a favorite picture book or chapter from a novel. Change the characters, setting, theme, problem and solution. For example, let's say the main character in the book is a llama. Your child might change it to a bluejay. In the book, the setting is a desert. Now the setting becomes a city park. Your child decides to keep the theme the same as the book - loneliness. However, the problem causing loneliness and its solution are changed. Brainstorm - talk about the details to the story. Ask questions to help develop the story before beginning to write.
2. Create a story map. Use sticky notes to lay out the plot of the story scene by scene or page by page.
3. Give your child a picture. Ask questions about what might be going on in the picture. Give him/her another picture. What is happening now? Continue the process allowing your child to create a story using pictures as the jumping off point.
4. Begin with a story frame. This helps the “author” think about most aspects of the story before actually beginning the writing process. See resources below.
5. Brainstorm/write the first draft on anything but paper - windows, whiteboards, chalkboards, butcher paper - it's much more fun!!!
6. Write it together. I write a page; you write a page, etc.
7. Who says you must write a book - make a comic strip, write poetry, create a newspaper, begin a daily blog.

## **Resources**

1. Template Lab: <https://templatelab.com/story-map-templates/>
2. Adobe Express: <https://www.adobe.com/express/create/comic-strip>
3. Babble Dabble Do: <https://babbledabledo.com/design-for-kids-recycled-handmade-journals/>

(We are not affiliated in any way with the resources. Please use at your own discretion.)