

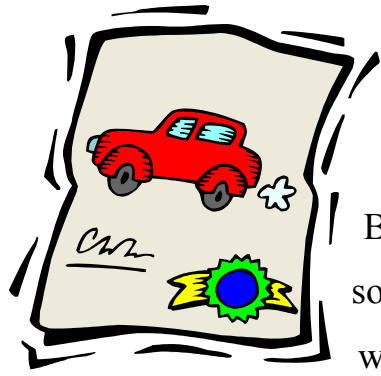


Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT

How To Kit



Book Making



Why do Book Making?

Book making is a wonderful literacy activity. It is something that can be done with children and families. It will help your children begin learning important reading skills and increase their interest in books. Your child's homemade books will become a source of family enjoyment and will be treasured for years to come.

It is easy to see the progress in your child's literacy skills from year to year, especially in the younger grades, if you make books with them every year. You can make extra copies of your child's books to give as a special gift for grandparents, family, and friends.



There are many different kinds of homemade books. You will find instructions on how to make:

- Padded binders, albums or keepsake books
- Bound Fourteen Page Books
- Match Books
- Sixteen Page Books
- Eight Page Books
- Circle Cards
- Quick Books
- Scenic Books

“My child was very proud of his first book, and would read it to anyone who would listen. It encouraged him to work on his reading skills and to continue writing stories,” said one parent.





Steps to Organizing a Book Making Event in Your Community

Preparation

- Find a space in your community to hold the event, such as the school, band office, library, or community hall.
- Advertise your special event at least one week prior to the event. Put posters up around the community, advertise on the local radio station or green screen, and hand out invitations at the school.
Tell everyone about it! [Posters](#) and [invitations](#) are included in this package.
- Prepare yourself by ordering the supplies you will need to make the different books. Collect or make samples of homemade books for your participants to see. Copy the instructions for [making the different books](#).
- You can invite Elders to come to your book-making event and have them tell stories that the children can make books about.
- Call the NWT Literacy Council if you would like help with your event. The NWT Literacy Council can provide free books for prizes, help with the organization of the event and provide training for facilitators.
- Ask the local paper to come to your event and do a story about Family Literacy.





Celebrating Your Book Makers

- Have a community event to celebrate the bookmakers in your community. You can hold a coffee house and have bookmakers read their books. You can give out certificates and prizes to the writers.
- You can donate a copy of your books to a local library. Children will be pleased when they find that a friend has checked out and read one of their books.
- Ask the local paper to do a story about the book-making project and print a story and a sample book in your local newspaper.
- You can make copies of the books and have them available in the community.
- The NWT Literacy Council wants to know about your book-making project. Send us an email to let us know how it went. We'd love to receive any publications that you do.





Different Book Ideas

Homemade books and albums can be used for all sorts of things:

- Stories
- Family Histories
- Artwork
- School portfolios
- Family Christmas or birthday books
- Family albums

Why not try one of these book-making ideas with your child or in your classroom?

Making Books At Home

- **‘The Book of Me’** – A pre-writer can tell you what to write for them. Include favorite things, hair and eye color, names of pets, friends, or siblings, and anything else that completes your child's picture of their identity.
- **Make an alphabet word-capture book** - You'll need 14 pieces of paper for this one. Illustrate each of the 26 empty pages with an alphabet letter. As your child learns new words, write them on the page. Beginning readers see their growing command of language.





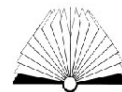
- **Tell your family's history** - Use a homemade book to tell your family's history from your child backwards. Include names, pictures, and information that places your little one in a line of family history.

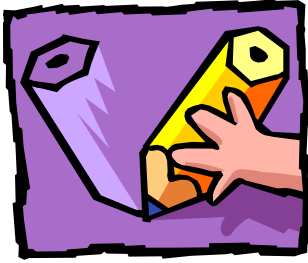


- **Supplement school lessons with homemade books** – For example, farm animals can follow units on food, pets could add to a lesson on community, and wild animals can illustrate facts about different countries. Cut pictures out of magazines or catalogs for illustrations.



- **Keepsake vacation journal** - Pasting in souvenirs from travels can make a wonderful keepsake vacation journal. Older children can use their own book as a diary during the trip.
- **Chronicle a season** - Budding naturalists might like to chronicle a season in a wild area near your home. Even backyards can yield plenty of nature sketching opportunities.
- **Favorite stories you've made up** make treasured gifts for your children. They make the book with you, you write or type the words, and they illustrate them. Expect this kind of story to become a favourite bedtime request.
- **Books that "take off" where a school lesson ended** can be donated to your child's class for further study.





Books as a Classroom Activity

You can make a book about a field trip or special event. Use a camera and take pictures throughout the day that show what you saw and did. Later in the week, have the children make a book about the trip on paper or on the computer. This can be an individual or group book.

Before the trip or event, talk about what you might see. Tell the children that they will be making a book of their trip.

Throughout the day, have them help you choose what pictures to take that will tell a complete story of the event.



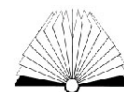
You can use a digital camera and then print out each picture. You can spread out all the pictures and talk about what you did first, next, etc. In other words, help them order the pictures in a sequence. In a group meeting, ask the children to dictate a sentence or two about each picture. Type their words into a word processing program such as MS Word. Later you can insert the correct pictures to make each page. You can ask each child to pick a favourite picture and to tell you what they liked about that part of the trip. So, for each picture you will have something that the group said and then, 'This is Mary Louise's favorite picture. She liked the seeing the dry fish hanging on the racks.'





There are many ways to make books in the classroom

- **Whole class book through dictation**---children dictate to the teacher who writes the story on pages for children to illustrate
- **Whole class book created by pages of individual children**---each child or pair of children creates one page; the separate pages are bound together
- **Small groups**---children in a small group write the story or informational piece to be included in the book
- **Pairs of children (same ages)**---class buddies or partners from different classes write the book together
- **Pairs of children (different ages)**---an older child works with a younger child to write the book
- **Individual child writes**---The child can write a simple story put in the form of a book or a piece created by using the writing process of drafting, writing, revising, and editing
- **Individual child dictates**---the child dictates his/her story while an adult writes it down in neat printing





How to Make a Book

Making a book with your child is easy. Together decide on the pages that will make the book, using text as well as art or photos. Then put the pages in order and bind them together.

You can use:

- **Photographs of family members** - Pictures of enjoyable family activities, favorite places to visit, familiar animals and pets, and family trips.



- **Art work created by your child** - Drawings, paintings, or any creation that your child makes to represent their ideas and feelings about the subject of the book.

- **Your child's ideas and feelings expressed on paper or on a tape recorder** -

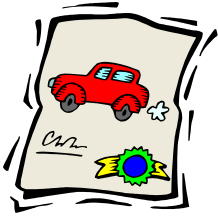


Young children need help to print their ideas on paper. With children about five or six years old who want to do their own writing, "inventive spelling" is the way to go. That just means that the words are written as they are heard by your child; correct spelling is not necessary. You can also have your child record their story on a tape recorder. You can then write out the story for them on pages that will make up the book and have them draw the pictures to go along with it.

You can **bind** your books in a number of different ways:

- Use a stapler
- Punch holes and tie it together with yarn
- Put it in a binder, duo tang or special folder





Be sure to have a **cover page** with the title and the author – your child!

For really lasting memories, try **laminating** the pages so they do not fray or tear.

You can use clear packing tape to ‘lamine’ your homemade book if you don’t have access to a laminating machine. All you have to do is lay the page down flat and cover it with packing tape, overlapping each piece so the entire page is covered.

Then turn the page over and do the same on the other side.

Finally, trim the edges.

