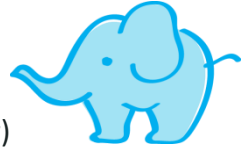


Home-made books

'My' book!

Young children enjoy looking at pictures of people and things that are special to them..... **and** they love things that are 'mine'!

- 'my number' (I'm 2 years old!)
- 'my letter' (J for Jack, A for Anousha)
- 'my teddy' (or blanket, or other comforter)



A home-made book about familiar people or favourite things - *My Book*, is unique and special to each child. They will love sharing their book with others as well as looking through it on their own.

Books to make

Home-made books can be made very simply. Here are a few ideas:

- a book with clear images of the faces of people who are important in your child's life
- a peek-a-boo book – made from images with flaps over them
- a texture book – made from materials with different textures
- a book of favourite things –toys, pets, food or places etc.
- a book about a special day out together

Hole-punch the pages and tie them together with wool, ribbon or string. You can make your book more hardwearing by using card for the pages or covering them in sticky-back plastic.



Collect things that you think might be useful – recycled materials such as sweet wrappers, cards, textured paper, catalogues, magazines etc. are ideal for making home-made books.

You can also use a scrapbook or a photo album – these have useful pockets to slip your pages and other bits and pieces into.

Home-made books don't have to be just on paper or card... If you are comfortable with technology, have a look for an app or make a book together using a computer, phone or tablet. You could then share it with others electronically – or you could print it and let your child add their own 'writing' about what they have created.



Planning, choosing and creating together

Making home-made books is a way of planning, choosing and creating something together. Children often have ideas about the kind of book they want to make. They will enjoy making decisions about the materials, content and layout of their book. It gives them a sense of control and independence, and also lets them know that you value their ideas. You can help by:

- Talking about the pictures to help them to recognise or remember things they have seen or done:

'There's Aunty Gladys with my teddy!'

'That was the day we went to the park in the pouring rain'

- Helping them to cut and stick things into their book any way they like – even upside-down if they insist!



Authors and illustrators!

Making home-made books together and talking about what they are doing will encourage your child to want to know more about reading and writing. You can encourage your child to draw their own pictures and 'write' in their book by making their own marks.



Talk to them about what their writing says – the marks may not make any sense to you but it is likely that they will to them!

Or they might want you to write down what they say about their drawings or pictures – when you read your child’s words back to them it helps them understand that their marks on the page mean something important.

When children make their own books they learn that books have authors and illustrators.

A rich opportunity for learning

Children enjoy exploring while they are making their home-made book. They are often interested in the materials they are using – they love to sort them and find pictures or other things that they recognise. This offers a rich opportunity for learning:

- looking at pictures and talking about them is an early stage of reading
- choosing pictures and pasting them into a book is an early stage of writing
- sorting pictures and other materials into things that are similar or different is an important part of early maths
- cutting, sorting, sticking, making marks and scribbling help to develop the physical skills needed for writing

Doing these things together will give your child a huge sense of achievement and they will be proud of making their own home-made books with you.



Books to make and play with

Children love to explore and play with books. They want to handle them; to read them again and again, to carry them



around as they are playing and they will probably want to take them outside too!

Don't worry if they get bent, sticky or torn – a battered book is likely to be a well-loved book!

Here are some other ideas for home-made books and stories you can make together:

- **Tiny books** – a few small pieces of paper, hole-punched and tied together with wool can make tiny books for dolls or toys. These could contain a favourite story, with simple pictures and a few words. Older children will enjoy playing at 'reading' to their toys and turning the pages for them, they can even help the toys 'read' to each other.
- **Giant books** – made from big sheets of paper or card with bold pictures or shapes.
- **Zigzag book** – take one long strip of paper and make the pages by folding the strip backwards and forwards (like a concertina).
- **Play mats** – use large pieces of paper or a roll of lining paper (wallpaper) to draw a play mat for your child's toys, e.g. a farm with fields and tracks, or a town with roads. Make up stories together about their play mat 'world'.

Home-made books encourage children's interest in books, reading and writing.

