

A Place for Publishing

Purpose—A place for publishing, housed within the literacy center, offers the tools and space children need to write, illustrate, and produce books. They might write about events at home or at the program, meaningful accomplishments, field trips, and other topics of interest.

Steps

Tell a story: A child dictates a fiction or nonfiction text to a teacher who writes it on paper or on a computer in the child's home language and English. Some children may create a wordless picture book, telling a story with illustrations but no text.

Illustrate the book: Children draw, paint, or cut pictures out of magazines; print pictures from Internet sites; or take digital photos.

Create the pages: Children scan handwritten text or drawings into the computer or gather their completed pages.

Put it together: Make covers out of construction paper or cardboard. Print the title and author's name on the cover and the title page. Laminate covers. Bind books with staples or brads, or punch holes in the pages and covers, then sew them together with yarn or laces.

Enjoy the finished product: Teachers help children display their books on shelves. Children read the books alone, share them with friends, and take them home to read with their families. Teachers read the books aloud at group time.

What children do and learn

In addition to building language and literacy skills, children can build skills in other areas.

Math

- Make page borders with stencils (recognize and repeat patterns).
- Measure pages, covers, and yarn or laces (measurement).
- Count and number pages (understand the meaning of symbols).

Social and emotional

- Share materials.
- Take turns using the computer and other equipment.
- Make and carry out plans alone or with a friend (self-regulation, cooperation).

Fine motor

- Move a mouse to select an image.
- Type on a keyboard.
- Cut with scissors.
- Use a hole punch.
- Draw and paint with a variety of tools.

