



How To: Create an Experience Book

An experience book is a homemade book put together by you and your child to capture the everyday experiences that are important to your child. The books feature your child as the main character and supports them to tell about their experiences, guide conversations and model language appropriate to your child's listening and spoken language (LSL) goals.

Experience books come in many forms. This guide provides a simple low-tech way to begin. Remember to use the strategies you learned in your LSL intervention sessions as a way to help your child listen and learn.

Use Language to Get Started:

Gather materials to make the book. Use **familiar commands** to guide your child to find the items around the house. You may need paper, stapler or tape, markers or crayons.

Fold the paper to create a few pages for a book. Use **audition first** to guide your child to follow instructions to create the book, or **ask a question** about what step should be next, then **pause and wait** for a response. Even the action of creating the book can be a language learning experience using strategies to guide the listening and talking.



Creating the book with your younger child:

Provide choices that lead to labeled objects you draw on the paper then have them color the images as you talk about them. (Ex: What was your favorite thing we bought at the store, apples or bananas?)

Use expansion to help your child use phrases to describe their actions. (Ex: Child says, "Apple." Parent expands utterance and says, "Oh, you are eating an apple.")

Use open questions for more spontaneous descriptions. (Ex: How do you think the apple tastes?)

Write the words that your child says on each page.

Draw a picture or present a small set of photos or stickers and ask the child to find images to go with the words. Guide your child to color or glue the photo to the page.



Creating the book with your older children:

Encourage your child to tell about the event first, then retell starting with the **first** thing that happened. Talk about the beginning of the story.

Use keywords such as **where, what, who and how** to prompt your child to tell more about the event.

Guide your child to draw their own images and talk about their drawings by **describing the objects and actions**.

Expand your child's words and encourage longer, more complex oral sentences, then help your child practice by writing the sentence on the page.

Add to the story by **identifying emotions**, talking about their feelings and drawing the faces to match the feelings. (How did you feel when you saw the tiger?)

Ask open questions that prompt your child to think about their next experience. (What should we buy next time at the store? Let's start our list.)



Practice, practice, practice!

Throughout the week, find more times to share the experience book. First, allow your child to lead the conversation, then use LSL strategies to **expand and extend** the conversation. Use **open questions** and **I wonder statements** to help your child recall the events and retell the story.

Schedule a time for your child to share the book with extended family, friends or siblings as a way to practice sharing with a variety of listeners. Each listener will relate to the story in a different way, ask different questions and share their own similar experiences.





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Digital Books and Apps:

You and your child might prefer using digital apps on your phone or tablet to create experience books. Here are a few we found for you to try:

Story Creator (Free)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/story-creator-easy-story-book/id545369477?mt=8>

Book Creator (Free)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-free-make-books/id661166101?mt=8>

Printastic

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/printastic-create-photo-books/id966233845?mt=8>

Litter Story Creator

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/little-story-creator-digital/id721782955?mt=8>

Whether you go low tech or high tech to create an experience book with your child, we hope you have fun engaging in meaningful storytelling experiences to grow your little listener into an exceptional conversationalist.