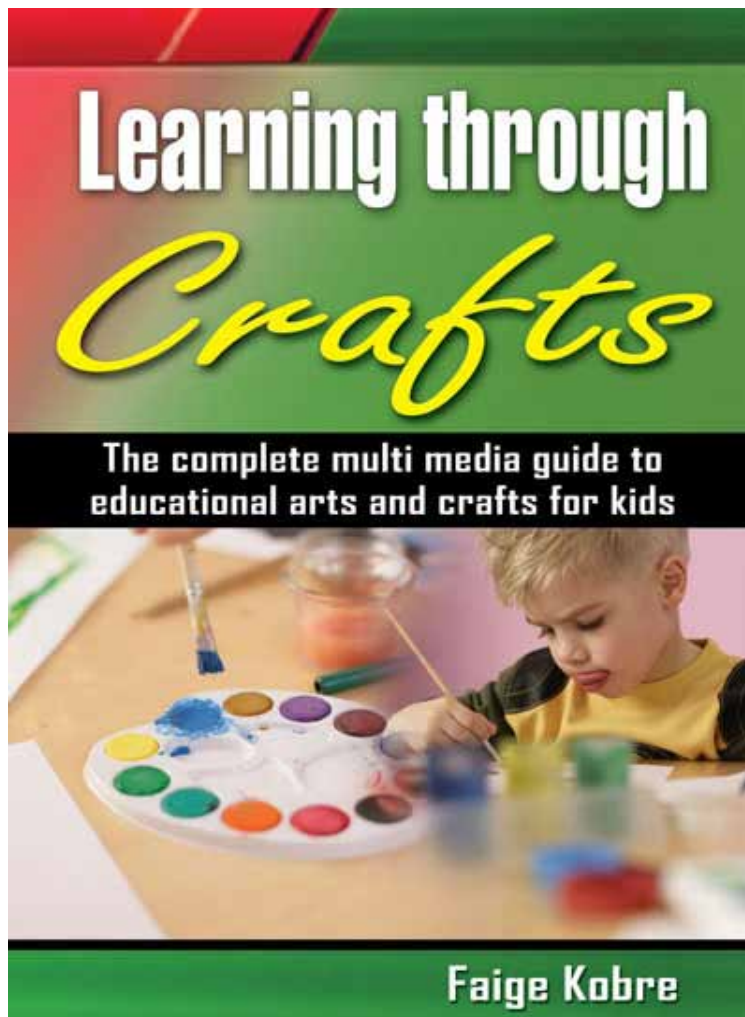


Early Reading Books

*A great addition to the
Educational Arts and Crafts program for Kids*

www.educationalartsandcrafts.com



Faige Kobre

Early Reading Books

There are times when the children need an activity and a messy activity will not do. Either there is no time, no materials, no space or you are just in the mood for something different.

Early Reading books are a great addition to your art (and reading) program and can be done with individual children or as a group endeavor.

The books can be used to summarize experiences that the children have had individually or as a class. The children can draw about trips they have taken, an event they have attended or even everyday experience. Family members or friends can be written about. They can also be imaginative stories.

A good use of these books are as a catharsis for traumatic event. I once taught a little girl who had a robbery in her home. She could not stop talking about it. After we sat down and made a book about what happened she stopped obsessing about it. They can be a very cathartic way of dealing with stress. Very often children who cannot talk about difficult situations they have in their lives are able to do so when they are given the chance to draw about them. Much can be revealed through these pictures and dictation. Sometimes a child has to become quite comfortable the process before they can deal with the trauma of their event. Not all traumatic events are considered traumatic to us. A new baby in the house may be quite exciting for us while to a young child who has been as they feel displaced it can be quite difficult.

The Early Reading books consist of pictures that the children draw and text that the adult writes based on the dictation of the children. If the children are a bit older they themselves can write the words.

The child draws and the adult writes.

Sample topics

- Our trip to the bakery
- Our trip to the farm
- How we made applesauce
- What I want to be when I grow up
- How we hatched chicks in our classroom
- What we found on our fall walk
- My Family
- The Fire in my house
- Different kinds of homes people live in
- My dream
- My new sister
- How the Indians lived
- All of my friends
- How I feel when....
- My vacation

Benefits of Early Reading books

1. They are great as a substitute for art project.
2. You do not need a lot of time or preparation for this activity.
3. They are a wonderful pre-reading activity. The children are observing the mechanics of reading. Left to right progression, spaces between words, punctuation etc. They are also learning that reading is “talk written down”
4. Children get a good feeling about reading. Parents and children love and treasure these books.
5. The books give them a feeling of ownership
6. Allows them to use their full capabilities of drawing without worrying how they compare to other children’s drawings
7. It’s a great way to spend some real quality time with your child.

Individual books may differ a bit from class books. When doing class books the child gets to do only one page, while in an individual book it’s only that child’s book.

Individual books

Individual books can be as elaborate or as simple as you’d like. You can take a few white sheets of computer paper and staple them together and Voila! You have a book. You can add a piece of construction paper to the outside of it for a cover and if you want something more elaborate, I have an example of one a bit further down in this report.

The children make the picture and in very clear, legible, manuscript writing you write down what the child tells you. It is important to write as clearly as possible as this is where the children are getting their initial introduction to writing and reading. If you show them as you write what you are doing it is even more beneficial. Just make sure you don’t overdo and make it into a lesson on the mechanics of writing. This will ruin the spontaneity of the activity.

You can either have the children write on one side and you use the opposite page to do the writing. The second option is to draw a line at the bottom of each page and on each page you have picture and writing.

How to prepare a class book

When doing class books there are a few ways to do them. You can do large ones to keep in the library that are more sturdy. Or you can make ones of collective experiences that go home to the parents. Those books are done on computer paper and then copied on a copy machine.

You can choose to have each child participate in each book but if you have a large class you will need to choose only a few children for each book. It is important to keep records as to who has already been part of a book to ensure that each child gets a turn. Below is a simple chart you can copy that helps you keep records of who already had a turn.

You just check off near the child's name when they take part in a book

Name of child	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4

Tips for class books

Sit down with one child during work period while the others are occupied and discuss the topic at hand. Ask them what they remember about the event and what they would like to draw. Draw a line about $\frac{1}{4}$, or even smaller, of the page across the bottom of the page.

The child draws with a pen, or thin black marker (pencils are too light)

If you find that the children are all saying the same thing or that they can't hone in on a particular part of an experience, there is nothing wrong with suggesting a few topics to jog his memory about the event. (Like, maybe you would like to draw about the bus trip or when you fell on the step etc.)

If you'd like you can type their words after they are done and add them to their drawings if you want their books to look really professional.(especially if you don't have very neat handwriting)

If they can write their own name, they should do so, otherwise you write it clearly in the corner for them.

Copy the sheets on a copy machine, make a nice cover, collate and, before you send it home, read it to them. They absolutely love these books. They cannot wait for their page to be read.

If time is of the essence and the children are older and do not need your supervision for the drawing, you can give them already prepared papers with a line delineated for the written words which they leave blank for you to fill in later.

Books can even be done with only 5-8 pages. For certain books, you can, of course, include the whole class. Ex: What I liked best about this year in kindergarten.

Below are some sample pages from some of class books a teacher did in a school I worked in some children many years ago.

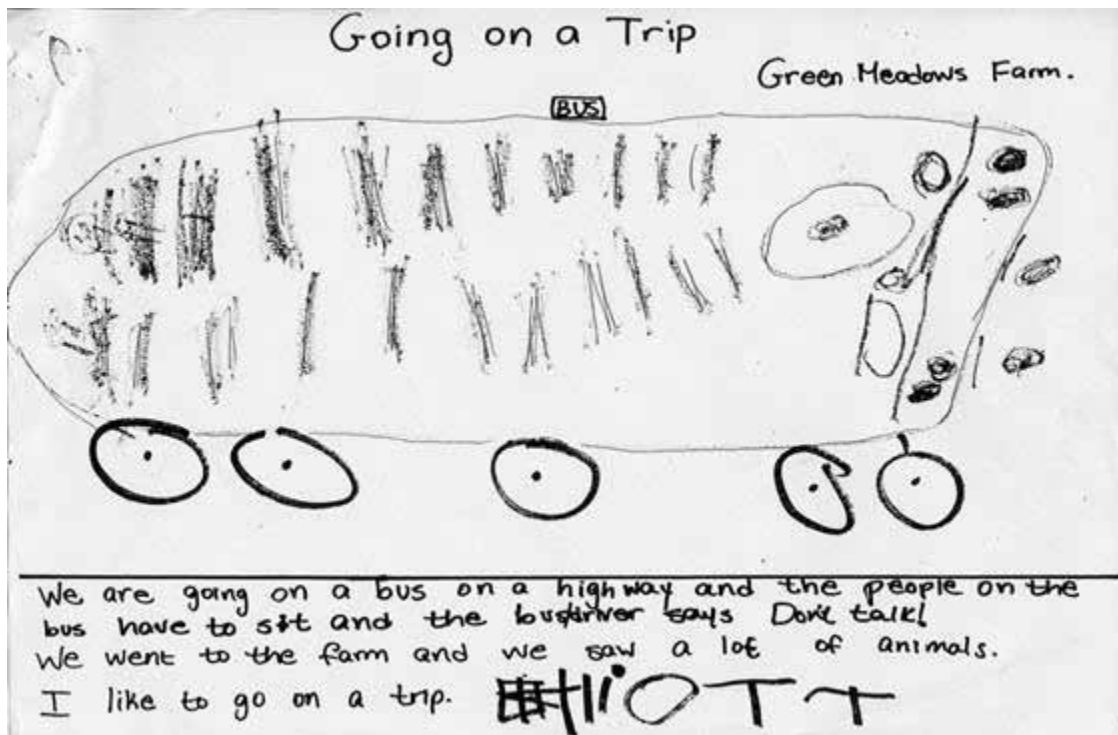
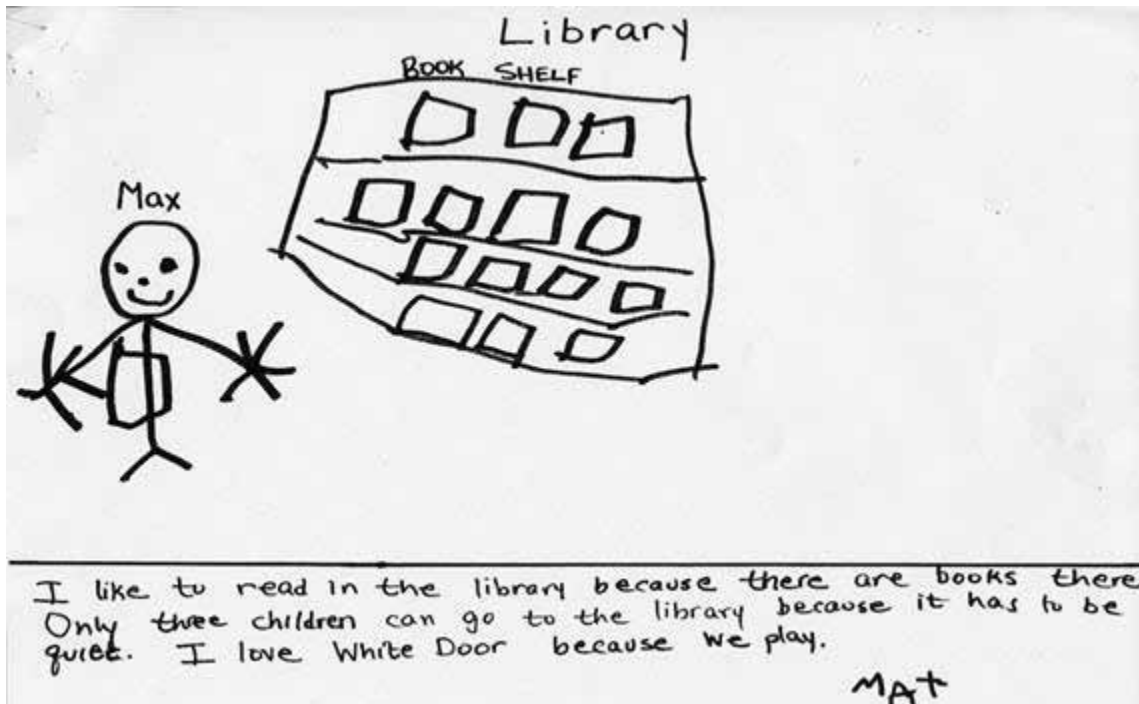
In the first two pictures the children drew and dictated. In the second two, the children used inventive spelling to write the words and the teacher transcribed their words by typing the translation next to it.

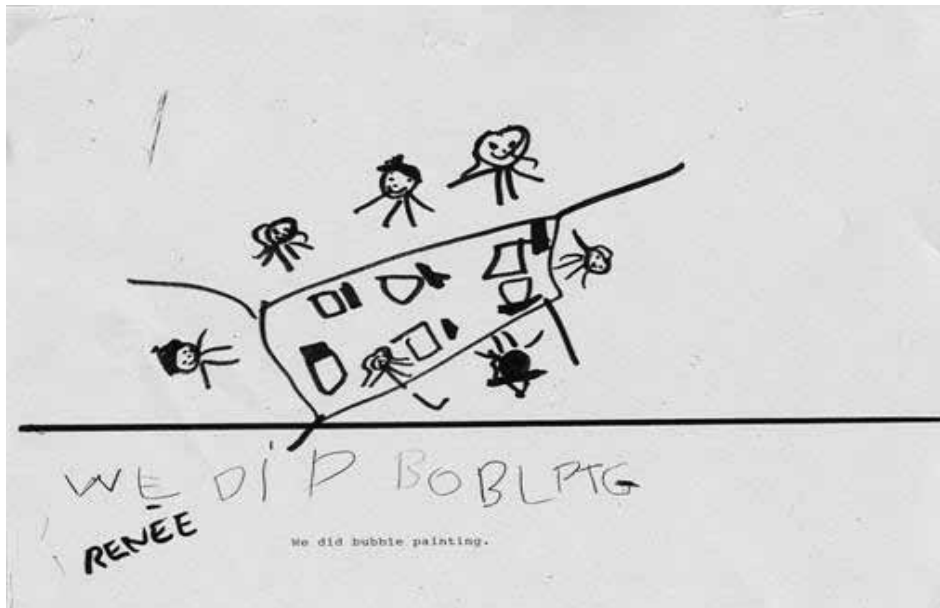
(Inventive spelling is when the children sound out the words they want to write and write using only the sounds they hear)

The words were actually added in by using an old fashioned typewriter.

The way you can do this, in our computer age, is by typing the words, printing them out, cutting out the printed words, taping it to the paper and THEN photocopying the whole page.

A bit of work but well worth the effort.





Below is a sample bookmaking project taken from the website listed under the title.

Bookmaking: a single-signature pamphlet

(Taken from: <http://gort.ucsd.edu/preseduc/bookmkg.htm>)

Making a simple book is fun and rewarding. Beautiful books can be created using this simple technique. The following directions describe how to make a single book using pamphlet binding, one of the simplest ways to bind sheets of paper. As part of this type of activity, participants can also learn the parts of a book, and some of the history of books.

The basic pamphlet uses 3 holes to sew through, but if the book is large, 5 or 7 holes can be used. Many types of decorative paper and handmade paper can be used for the cover, and silk and metallic threads can be used for sewing.

Materials:

- ♦ 3 or 4 sheets of photocopy paper or typing paper
- ♦ 1 sheet of medium weight art paper for the cover
- ♦ 1 piece of heavy thread, embroidery floss, or thin decorative cord, 3 times longer than the length of the spine of the pamphlet.

Tools:

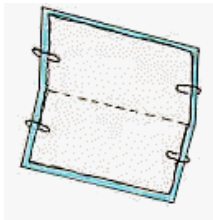
- ♦ Bone folder
- ♦ Xacto knife
- ♦ Metal-edge ruler
- ♦ #18 tapestry needle or any large-eyed needle
- ♦ Awl or push pin
- ♦ Kitchen towel, folded in quarters lengthwise

Process:

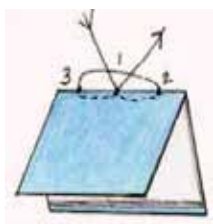


1. Measure and cut the cover sheet $\frac{1}{2}$ " taller than the text paper. Cut the paper 1" longer than the text for a fold-in at the edges. If using a sheet of handmade paper, the fold-in will not be necessary, so just have the extra 1" measurement. Score the cover paper and fold in half. Then mark 2" from each, score, and fold.

2. Score and fold the text sheets in half. Slip one inside another until the sheets nest together. This forms the signature.



3. Put the folded sheets inside the cover and open up the book, making sure to line up evenly the $\frac{1}{4}$ " margin on the top and bottom. Put paper clips on the top and bottom of the book to keep the pages from moving. Place the open book on top of the folded towel. Measure the center along the fold line and punch a hole with the awl or push pin. Then make 2 more holes from both edges.



4. Thread the needle. Sew through the middle hole (#1) to the inside of the book, leaving a length of thread to tie a knot, and sew up and out of the top hole (#2). Sew down the outside and into the bottom hole (#3), and come back out at the center hole (#1). Tighten or adjust the thread if necessary. Tie a bow or knot and trim thread to the desired length.

Note: The knot can also be tied on the inside of the signature. To do this start on the inside of the book instead of the outside.

Below is a website that can give you other ways of making your own books.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/makeown.htm?tqskip1=1&tqtime=0715>

Taking Early Reading Books a bit further.

- Create a whole series of books written by individual children, bind them and put them in the class library, or home library. Take the children to the library and create a unit on libraries and how they work. You can even have children issued library cards if you are doing this in a classroom setting.
- Create a unit on bookmaking itself. The children can learn about writers, illustrators, copyright symbols, how books are prepared for the printing process and maybe even a bit about desktop publishing.
- Learn more about children and their drawings. There is a well known educator named Rhoda Kellogg who goes into detail about the meaning of children's drawings. She has lots of interesting information about children and their art.
- You can refer children to your ABC chart as you are forming certain letters, to show them that they can use it as a reference when they get stuck.

Enjoy creating many wonderful books with children.

You can view the video that comes along with report to get a better visual sense of what I am talking about.

Faige Kobre