

Book Making with kids

As human beings we are made in the image of God. God is extremely creative and when we start and finish our own creations, we are demonstrating likeness of Him. It brings us great satisfaction and honor to make something new from practically nothing. Showing our books with family and friends provide both an opportunity to present information orally as well as to share a message that is important to us personally. Furthermore, even years later, my children love to go through and review their favorite books they have made. This inspires them to make more books in addition to refreshing them on facts they may have forgotten.

Bookmaking recommendations:

- A love for reading may turn into a love for writing if the pressure is not too strong. Reading books about books encourage the importance of literature in the home and school. We like: *Something from Nothing*, *Jeremiah Learns to Read*, *Read Anything Good Lately?* *Max's Words*. *The Best Place To Read*, *Little Women*, *Annie of Green Gables*. *Margeurite Makes a Book*
- Study your favorite authors and learn how their books were made. (Ex. *Beatrice Potter*, *Robert Munsch*, *Laura Ingalls Wilder*)
- Interview a local author if possible or write a letter to one. *Robert Munsch* wrote us back a personal letter in response. It was so exciting.
- For the youngest child, try not to overwhelm them. First books need to be simple. To start I use fill in the blanks or dictation. If they are not yet writing letters on their own I print the word(s) with a purple disappearing fabric felt pen so they can trace overtop. The felt pen fades away. This also models sentence structure and punctuation. Eventually they pick up on it and will be writing great paragraphs.
- Using scrap booking techniques and supplies make home-school books much more appealing. Page layout of text, images and titles need to be organized and clear. Giving your child their own scrap book helps them to practice and develop a personal style. Use acid free supplies to preserve your projects for longer.
- For your favorite projects, get the fronts laminated or bound at your local office store. The kids really feel important when you make the effort to have them look published.
- Current events can be used as a starting point for projects. We love to feature the country that hosts the winter and summer Olympics.
- Making your own adaptations of fairy tales or favorite books. Get your younger kids to illustrate familiar stories in their own way.
- Layered books, shape books, peek-a-boo books, pocket books and lap books make any topic more interesting. Templates can be found for free online.
- Model bookmaking. Write a story about your child that describes them.
- Just for fun, add an "About the Author" section for your kids to tell about their favorite things and why they made the book.
- Store them in a plastic file box so they don't get lost or bent.
- Do a unit study on literature genres and book care.