



Making Books with Children

ONE of our primary goals as teachers is to help children develop a love of reading and an appreciation for books. A creative teacher develops this love for books through spirited storytelling, art, puppetry, and a myriad of hands-on classroom activities. But seldom is the link between book appreciation and classroom learning more direct than when children create their own books.



Because books provide so much potential for learning and creativity, a high percentage of Smart Art Lessons are devoted to bookmaking. Six bookmaking activities are included here, for both preschool and school-age children. Four simple books are devoted to young children: a Wishing Scroll, a Sorting Book, a Quick Paper Bag Book and

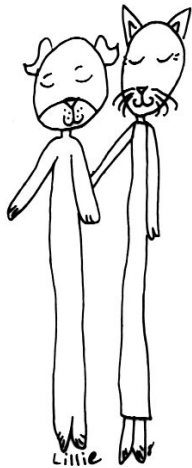
an Accordion Book. Two others, the Chopstick Book and Origami Book, will challenge and motivate the school-age child. Most of them can be easily adapted with a little imagination, and all of them are fun to make.

When children make books, they exercise cognitive skills such as problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking. They have to plan, predict, and adapt their actions as they work. They work in three dimensions, which develops spatial relations and visual problem-solving skills. It's easy to match the content of books to a child's developmental level and interests. Even very young children can scribble and make shapes, learning directionality and the left-right progression of books. Making pictures



Content Ideas:

- Colors
- Shapes
- Textures
- Letters/numbers
- Finger print pictures
- Leaf collage/rubbings
- Weather/seasons
- What I love about me
- What I love about you
- Friends/family
- Vegetables/fruits
- My favorite things
- I have a dream that ...
- My most daring adventure ...
- If I were President ...
- Open ended



or illustrating books also develops imagination, individuality, and self-expression. Combining writing exercises with picture making offers a complete tie-in with literacy goals and classroom lessons.

One of the pleasures of bookmaking is the endless range of content that goes inside a book. By creating a colorful and exciting book to enhance the lesson, whether it be weather, numbers, or bugs, you provide further discovery and learning. Books make wonderful take-home gifts for special occasions. Bookmaking is so appealing to children and parents alike that handmade books often stand the test of time and remain safely tucked away in a parent's memory chest forever.

Try one of the creative Smart Art book lessons today. All can be made from simple materials and offer a wide range of possibilities for discovery and building self-esteem.