



Personalized stories where the child is the main character in the story

# How to create an Experience Book

## INTRODUCTION

With this resource you will:

- » Learn about using sound books and experience books for encouraging children with hearing loss to listen and talk.
- » Watch video clips of children talking about their experience books and extending their language.

You will find answers to these questions:

- » What is an experience book?
- » Why and how to create an experience book?
- » What will I need to create experience books?
- » What are the 5 E's and how do they apply to sound books?
- » What are the 5 elements to a story in an experience book?
- » How do I provide enrichment for more advanced experience books?

## What is an Experience Book?

Experience books are personalized stories that can be highly rewarding and exciting because the child is the main character in the story. Creating experience books is an interactive communicative process between a child and significant adult which lays the foundation for natural development of listening, speech, language and literacy.

## Why create an experience book?

Create experience books to:

- » Tell stories. Listening leads to talking which transfers into telling stories. This prepares your child for reading and writing stories.
- » Practice receptive and expressive language about experiences that are uniquely meaningful, interesting and motivating for your child.
- » Review teachable moments when adults capture opportunities to feed in language and reinforce incidental listening and learning.
- » Develop conversational skills when you
  - Establish loving and natural social bonds;
  - Interact about everyday routines;
  - Retell experiences beyond the here and now;
  - Use developmentally appropriate and targeted speech and language;
  - Answer and ask questions;
  - Take conversational turns; and
  - Rehearse a story.

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Hear now. And always





## The 5 E's and a Sound Book (Video 1)

The sound book is often a young child's first experience book. It is useful for encouraging children with hearing loss to listen and talk. When you look at the sound book with your child, you provide practice for him to say different animal and vehicle sounds. This allows him to associate a picture of an object with the sound it makes. Your child develops symbolic language by attaching meaning to each sound. He develops early receptive language and looks at or points to the picture or object when he hears you say the sound. He shows early expressive language when he spontaneously says or approximates the sound associated with the picture or toy.

Talking with your child about his sound book can be an auditory activity when you learn and become comfortable with the 5 E's for encouraging your child to listen to learn language (Caleffe-Schenck, 2007).

1. Expose
2. Expect
3. Experience
4. Expand
5. Express



## Elements of a Story in an Experience Book (Video 2)

As your child progresses encourage her to share stories with others by providing enough, but not too much, information. Teach your child to incorporate 5 elements in a story:

1. Setting: When and where did the story take place?
2. Characters: Who is in the story?
3. Main idea or problem: What is the story about?
4. Events: What happened?
5. Conclusion: How does the story end?

## Enrichment for an Experience Book (Video 3 & 4)

Provide opportunities or "field trips" to enrich your child's knowledge about specific topics. Prepare your child for the experience and follow up after the experience by including more details in the experience book.

- Pre-teach vocabulary and concepts before the actual experience.
- Build upon previously learned story elements to include more detailed information in a story.
- Sequence what happened.
- Learn new vocabulary that transfers from listening to speaking and from reading to writing.
- Match print to verbal expressions.
- Use writing and reading as a playful activity.
- Illustrate the experience with pictures or drawings.
- Retell the experience or read the text to tell the experience.

