

Make a project story book

Create a project storybook with this activity and invite parents to your setting to share the children's work.

Learning aims

Creating stories about projects children have been involved in supports their learning and development, and they are able to re-visit the experience and make links to other areas of learning such as:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Creativity
- Communication and language
- Understanding the world
- Personal, social, physical and emotional development.



Resources

Resources for your project storybook:

- Camera
- Printer and paper for printing photographs
- Large floor paper or A3 sheets of card secured with treasure tags
- Glue
- Pens and pencils for drawing.

Activity outline

Begin by choosing your project, which could be a specific outing or activity that children are taking part in. You can use any project, activity, outing or experience in your setting to create your project storybook, but as an example, we have chosen a bird feeder activity. Prepare the resources for the activity and explain to the children that you are going to make a storybook all about what you are doing. Ask for a volunteer to take photos.

Making the bird feeders

- Mix lard with birdseed and add any extra ingredients such as sultanas and mealworms as an extra treat
- Mould the mixture into a round ball shape
- Pull the ball apart in the centre and lie a length of string inside, ensuring there is enough outside the ball to hang it up
- Close the ball back and up and press it together making sure the string is surrounded by the mixture.

Creating your project storybook

Photograph each stage of the creative process to create your storybook. For this example, you may wish to take photographs of:

- Your garden or outside space before the project begins
- The birds that you are hoping to attract
- The ingredients you are using
- The children involved
- The stages of the process, including any preparation (buying the ingredients), making the mixture, adding the string and deciding on where to hang the bird feeders
- The new bird feeders hung up and any visiting birds that come to the feeders.

Once the activity is complete and the children have printed off their photographs, sit with them and use the photographs to create a timeline of events to organise the storybook. Talk about the events and create a short narrative for each photograph by scribing the children's words. Support children to write some keywords if they are able to. Ask children to decorate the individual pages with bird drawings and decide together on the title of the book, authors, illustrators etc.

On International Literacy Day (September 8th) invite parents into your setting to share your project books with them. Ask the children to use the book to tell the story of what happened to the parents and other children. You can also encourage home learning by sharing the bird feeder recipe with parents so they can make bird feeders at home, and adding the project book into your lending library so children can take the book home to share with parents.

Working with Babies

Make your own family books by asking parents for photographs of family members, holidays, their home and any pets. Ensure the completed books are accessible to babies in your book area.