

Family Project: Making a Book About Your Family Home

Target Age Range: All ages

Activity Goals:

- Brainstorm ideas to create a family book project about your home;
- Teach your children common house vocabulary in English or your traditional language, while working together as a family.

Things to Talk About With Your Child(ren) While Working on this Project:

- Where do we live? Who lives in our house?
- What does our house have in it? What does it look like?
- What is everybody's favorite part of the house?
- Vocabulary: Rooms, parts of the room, and what are they used for?
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Living room
 - Bedroom(s)
 - Other rooms
 - Roof
 - Windows
 - Doors

Please refer to the Scavenger Hunt (page 4), and Additional Resources (page 5) to help learn vocabulary.

Project Steps:

1) Decide what kind of book you want to make

Examples include: worksheets, scrapbook, graphic novel, comic book, story book, photo album, journal, digital, digital with audio narrator.

2) Give each family member a role in the creation of your family book project

Each family member can have a role to play based on their strengths. Some people may have multiple roles. Roles may change as you go along. Some different book making roles to think about include:

Idea maker: _____ Illustrator: _____ Photographer: _____

Formatter: _____ Writer: _____ Narrator: _____

Editor: _____ Colourer: _____ Historian/Elder: _____

Typist: _____ Material finder: _____ Supplier: _____

Publisher: _____ Snack provider: _____ Cleaner: _____

3) Create a picture of the outside of your home to use as the book cover

A sample book cover layout is included on page 3 of this document. You can talk as a group about:

- How to create your cover (e.g., drawing, real picture, computer generated image, Minecraft image, etc.);
- What the cover setting should be: Where (street, farm, etc.), when (season, time of day);
- What does your house look like;
- What parts does your house have (windows, doors, roof, yard, trees, grass, fence, toys, cars, etc.).

4) Create a page with information about the author, publisher, etc. (Page 2 of book)

You can use the list of team members above.

5) Create a dedication page. (Page 3 of book)

This page is optional. Many books are dedicated to someone special in the author's life, like a family member or someone that inspired them to write the book. Consider creating a dedication page which talks about who your family loves and looks up to.

6) Create additional pages for your Family Home Book (Page 4 onwards)

You can use ideas generated from the House Scavenger Hunt Activity below to help you determine what information you want to include. In your book, your child(ren) can practice:

- Drawing and coloring pictures of their house;
- Writing sentences and paragraphs with this information;
- Audio recording an interview where they ask others questions about their house.

Sample Book Cover

A Book About _____ Home

Family Home Scavenger Hunt Activity

You can use this scavenger hunt activity to give you ideas on what pages to include in your Family Home Book, or just do it for fun. Have each family member work alone or in pairs to complete the tables below. Give each group/member 1 point for each box completed correctly. Give each group/member an additional 1 point for any items they write down that were not listed in the below tables (e.g., a shed). Other hints are in the videos found in additional resources on page 5.

I/We live in _____ (community name)

My/Our address is: _____

(House #, street, community, province, country, postal code)

What does my/our house look like?

My/our house has:

Name	How many	Shape	Size	Colour	They are used for..
Doors					
Windows					
Roof					
Fence					
Walls					
Other					

Around my/our house there is:

Name	How many	Shape	Size	Colour	They are used for..
Yard					
Grass					
Trees					
Bushes					
Garden					
Fence					
Swing					
Road					
Other					

Additional Resources

Videos to watch and learn vocabulary

Let's Build A House: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=YBhJ8O7p2j8?t=4>

Kids vocabulary - Parts of the House:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9intHqzhc>

Word lists and videos: https://7esl.com/around-the-house-vocabulary/#Parts_of_a_House_Vocabulary

Family Activities & Fun Ideas for Kids

Childfun: <https://www.childfun.com/themes/people/families/>

Curriculum and lesson plans

Keeper of My Home: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/developing-and-renovating/developing-for-first-nations/keeper-of-my-home>

Keeper of my Home is a free resource for educators that teaches students about caring for their home and housing health and safety. The classroom content and e-learning games are for First Nation students from kindergarten to grade 12 who go to on-reserve schools. It's designed for teachers, however facilitators outside of the traditional classroom environment can use it too.

Please note that it may be useful to review lessons in earlier grades to ensure that all of the family members have a common understanding of the vocabulary and terms, such as maintenance, chores, etc.

Ideas, links, and apps to make and publish your own story

- Using Tar Heel Reader in app mode on your iPad
- Websites Where Kids Can Create Books:
<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/websites-where-kids-can-create-books.html>

The computer can be a great motivator to encourage children to write. Experiencing success and enjoyment with writing is something we all want for our growing learners. The computer or tablet can be a great tool to get children writing. Kids can create digital books using the resources above. Adult supervision is advised when children use the Internet, but apart from safety concerns, our kids can learn a lot from carrying out these activities!