

Language Experience



Making an Experience Book

Adapted from Topic 20 of SKI*HI's Communication Interactions

Young children enjoy things as they happen. They live in the here and now. As you participate in an activity, communicate with your child about what you are doing, seeing, hearing and feeling.

Then you will want to make the activity even more meaningful for your child and begin to help him or her to develop recall for past



events. You can start by having your child draw or make pictures about the event that can go into the child's own

experience book. Your child then can relive these events at a later date as he or she reviews the pictures. Parents can work on turn-taking as they discuss the pictures with their child.

An experience story is highly motivating because it is about him or her! It provides strong incentives for the child to learn the vocalizations, words and phrases associated with the meaningful events as you review the event over and over.

Materials

- *Sheets of paper*
- *Pencils, crayons, markers*
- *Binder or cardboard cover with rings*

STEPS:

1. Place items/ drawings/pictures related to the event.



- ◆ Make simple drawings about the event (like stick-figure drawings of your child falling down and bumping his or her head)
- ◆ Cut pictures related to the event (like picture of jell-o from the box when you make jell-o).
- ◆ Glue or tape objects associated with the event on the page (like a popsicle stick, a popped balloon, band aid, leaves, or candy wrappers.)

2. Write a brief description of the event. Make sure to write down the vocalizations, words, and phrases associated with the event



3. Put the page into a binder or a cardboard cover with rings.



4. Read the descriptions (narratives) and discuss the entries frequently with your child.



Examples of an experience book entries

Emotional experiences: Feeling sad in the hospital, being angry at brother, falling down and hurting self, being excited about a new puppy.

Special days: Birthdays, holidays, family outings, grandma and grandpa visiting.

Fun, interesting daily events: Making a sandwich, popcorn, jell-o or cookies, weeding the garden, washing the car, changing sheets, feeding the dog.

Changes or achievements in the child's life: Moving to a new house, going to school for the first time, riding tricycle for the first time, learning how to hop.

Anticipated future events: Going to grandma's, going to the beach, the zoo, doctor, audiologist, shopping

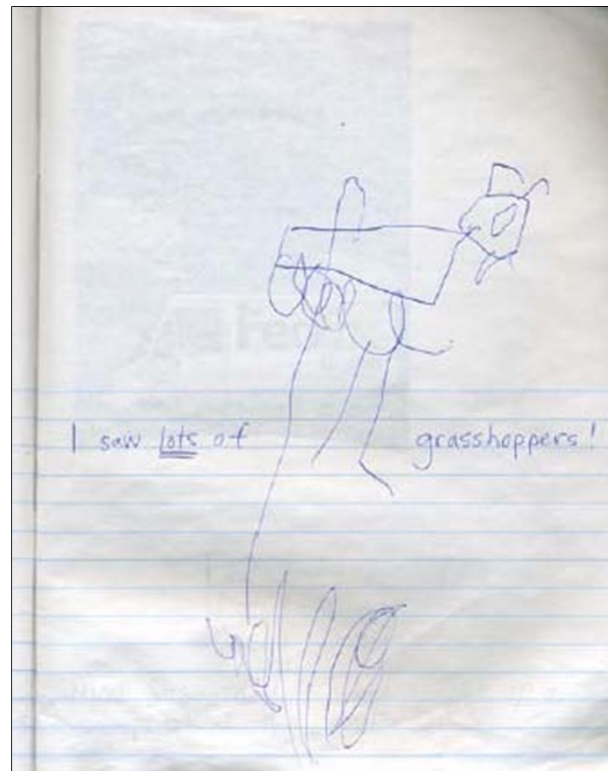
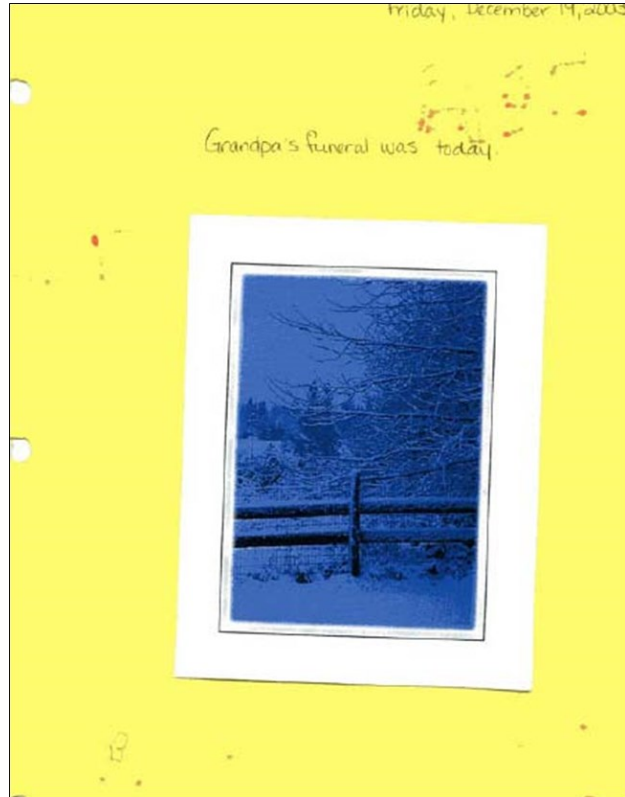
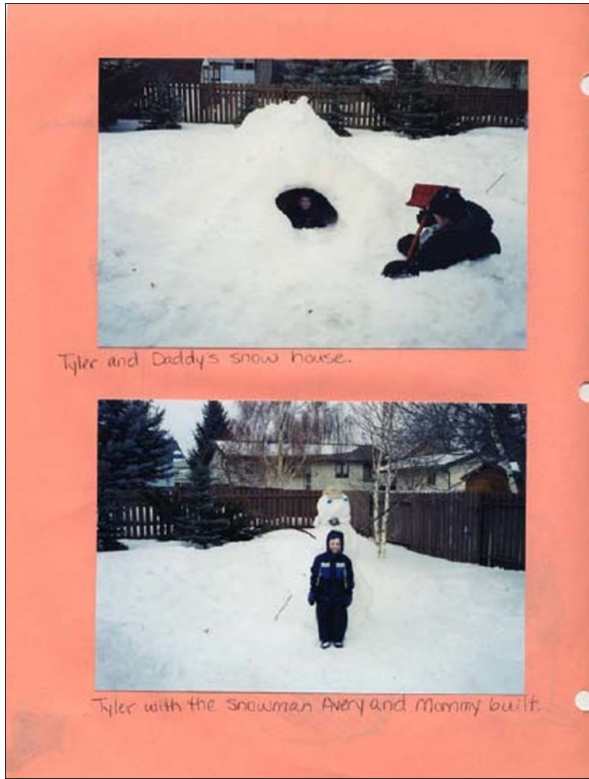
Events involving social or hygiene skills: Experience books entries can help the child learn about appropriate social or hygiene skills for various situations such as eating dinner before dessert, sitting down quietly in Sunday school, or washing hands before eating.

Additional ideas to make pictures interesting and more meaningful

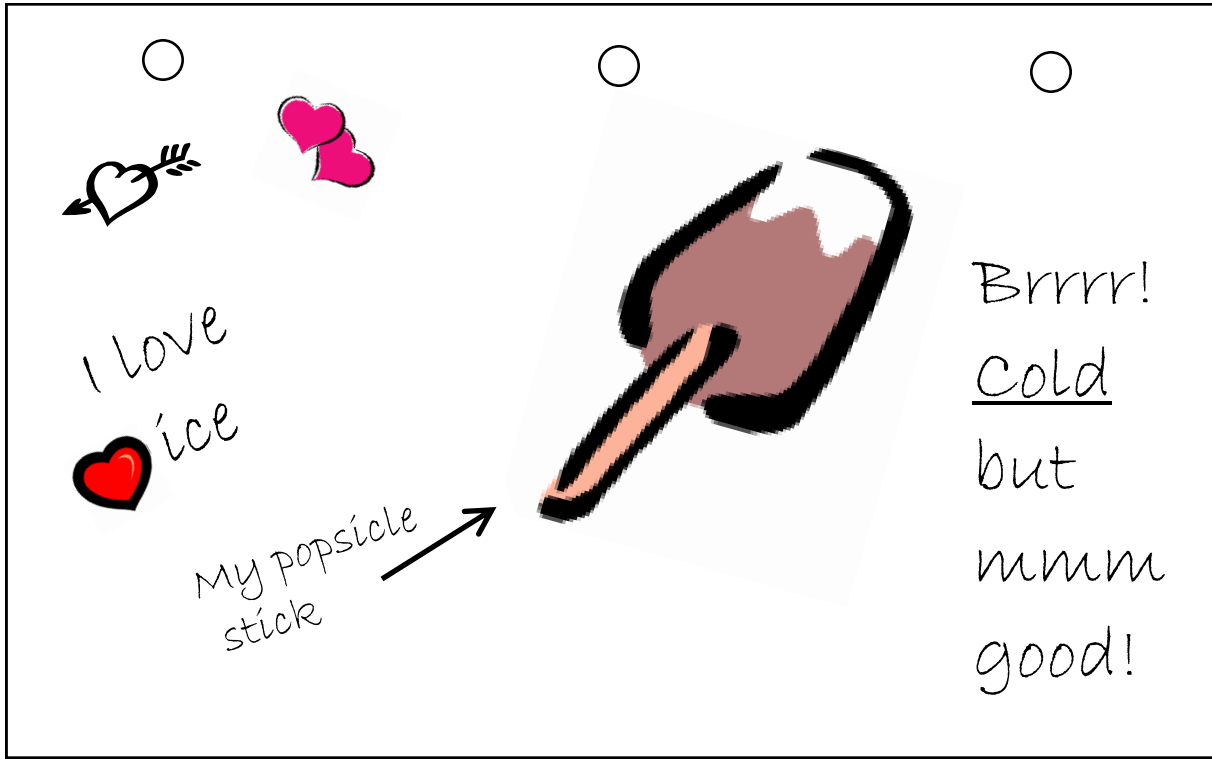
1. Use bright colors
2. Put real items in the pictures such as a bandage over a drawing of your child's finger, a gum wrapper by a picture of your child chewing gum or a straw in a picture of our child drinking a soda.
3. Help the child realize the drawn figure of a child is him or her by relating drawn features with the real features (blond hair, hearing aids, a red shirt, etc.)
4. Use snapshots of the child or other family members doing various things (remember, the younger the child the more realistic the pictures need to be so snapshots or family photos are especially effective).
5. Let the child be involved with making of the pages (drawing, gluing, etc.)
6. Enter items that can be touched, smelled or manipulated
 - ◆ cut out clothes from a variety of textured fabrics and glue onto the page for the child to feel;
 - ◆ put perfumes on a page for the child to smell;
 - ◆ put a real shoelace in a drawn shoe for the child to tie;
 - ◆ attach small velcro items to the page for the child to take on and off;
 - ◆ put flaps on some pages, and put pictures in the flaps for the child to take out, look at, and put back in.

*Stick figures are fine!
The important thing is to be
creative and have fun!*

Examples of Experience Books




Examples of Experience Books




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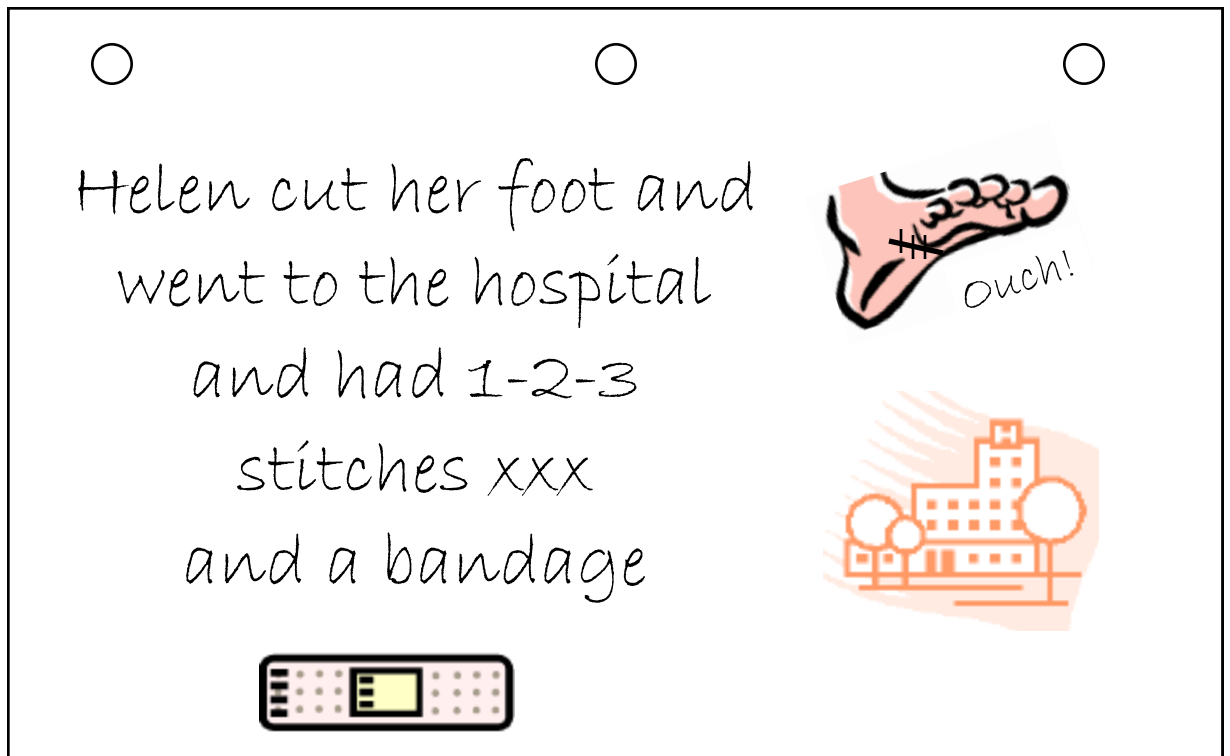
I love
ice



My popsicle
stick




Brrrrr!
Cold
but
mmm
good!





○ ○ ○

Helen cut her foot and
went to the hospital
and had 1-2-3
stitches xxx
and a bandage




ouch!




More Examples of Experience Books

○ ○ ○

Mommy + Helen
Planted flowers.




and Helen
Takes care of them.




.....
↑ real seeds

○ ○ ○

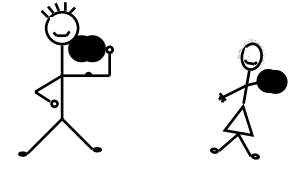
Saturday




make
pancakes.



Daddy Helen



Helen gets to crack  the eggs.

For older children, they experience an event or a story together, then dictate their experience to an adult who translates the story into an appropriate written English on chart paper. Then the adult uses the text on that chart paper for reading instruction, helping the children see the connections between what they signed/said and what was written. The teacher, knowing the particular skills the child needs to work on, uses this language experience to help them learn new vocabulary, letters of the alphabet, capitalization, punctuation, speech reading, or the basics of English grammar.

1. You can also make a "Telephone Book" which is a book of pictures of familiar persons who often phone. Keep the book by the phone and show the child who is calling.



2. Make a book "Places We Often Visit," (supermarket, convenience store, church, school, grandparents, friends' homes, restaurant, audiologists)



Keep the book in the car to discuss with the child where they are going or where they have been. ("That's where we're going, to Grandma's." "That's where we were, at Grandma's house. Bye Grandma's house.") You could also keep a notebook in the car. Before going someplace, draw an interesting feature of that place (like the golden arches for McDonald's) and discuss going to that place with the child.

3. Make a "What I Like to Eat" book. Draw or enter pictures of foods in the book. Let the child help choose what he or she would like to eat for breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner from the book.

