

# Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals

### Here's What You Get!

- 10 Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals
- Teacher's Activity Guide

### Introduction:

Writing is an important part of life. For young children, writing is about putting thoughts on paper and learning to express themselves in non-verbal ways. In this context, writing is not the same as handwriting. Handwriting is a fine motor skill, attached to the alphabet, which will eventually help children write words and sentences. The concept of writing is putting thoughts down on paper. Young children may begin with pictures on paper, eventually adding a few letters that will eventually become words. Although children will eventually learn to use keyboards and write using technology, it is best to introduce them to writing using paper.

The Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals were created for preschool children to begin the process of putting their thoughts down on paper. The emphasis for these journals should be drawing pictures. When children are developmentally ready, they can be encouraged to use letters and words on the lined portions of the journal pages. As children progress through kindergarten, they should begin to be able to write words and short sentences.

### Use Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals to address these Common Core State Standards:

- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative and explanatory texts
- Responding to questions and suggestions from peers and adding details to strengthen writing as needed
- Participating in shared research and writing projects
- Demonstrating command of the conventions of standard written English, including capitalization, punctuation and spelling
- Carrying out investigations of weather and living things

### Suggested Activities:

- Encourage the children to keep a daily journal. Have them use pictures to record what happened during the school day. Help the students date-stamp each entry to keep their documentation organized. You may want to share each child's journal during parent conferences. The journal is a good tool to show a child's progress in writing words and sentences.
- Provide the children with a topic for their journals based on a recent classroom discussion. For example, if you have been discussing farm animals, have the children draw a picture of their favorite farm animal.

## Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals (continued)

- It is an important step in language development for children to begin to make the connection between reading and writing. After reading a story to the class, have the children draw their favorite part of the story in their journals.
  - Have the children write and draw about members of their family. Encourage them to share what they have drawn and written with the class.
  - Provide the children with different writing tools to record their thoughts in their journals, such as crayons, markers, watercolors, colored pencils, stampers and stamp pads.
  - Leave a classroom journal in the writing center and allow the children to take turns completing a page during designated free time. Remind children to include their name with each entry. Occasionally read the entries out loud for the entire class.
- Use the Kindergarten Story and Picture Journals to record information about other subject areas, such as science, social studies or creative arts.
  - Have the children take their journals with them as you go on a walk through the neighborhood or on a field trip. Bring along crayons for the children to use to enter information in their journals. You may want to bring clipboards or another hard surface for the children to use while writing in their journals.



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