

Some “Do’s and Don’ts” for Creating Experience Books

By Mary Ellen Pesavento (2009)

DO's	DON'Ts
<p>DO create a book based on the child's experience, thinking about what is both interesting and relevant to the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a favorite routine• a favorite outing• a favorite toy• a favorite person	<p>DON'T adapt a commercially available book. Experience stories should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be personalized and relevant to the child.• reflect a real experience in a child's life or focus on a child's interest.
<p>DO use vocabulary and develop concepts relevant to the child's own experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep it simple.• Keep it meaningful.	<p>DON'T clutter the story with too much information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on the child's experience.• Include details important to the student.
<p>DO write words (and braille if appropriate) on each page so individuals who are reading the book with the student use the same vocabulary each time the story is read.</p>	<p>DON'T focus on having the child read the text. Generally, students using experience books connect with the objects placed on each page.</p>
<p>DO use objects relevant to the child's experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a book about mealtime, a child who uses a spoon may have a spoon on the page. A child who is tube fed, however, may have a piece of surgical tubing.• Use objects the child will recognize and that represent ideas or concepts from the child's perspective.	<p>DON'T use miniaturized objects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on the child's experience.• Determine what the child interacts with during the activity