

Bookmaking with Kids



Necklace Books are simple and quick to make, easy enough for kindergartners but still appealing for 5th graders.

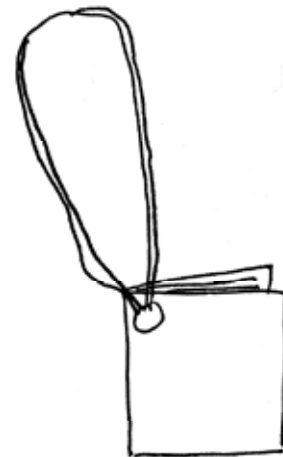
Kids enjoy the silliness of making a book they can wear, and that translates into lots of enthusiasm for writing and artwork.

Materials & Tools

- Narrow grosgrain ribbon.
Source: SCRAP, www.scrap-sf.org/
 - Scrap paper, cut in like-size pieces
 - Stapler, hole punch
 - Writing & drawing supplies
- *Optional:* Cover paper. Little cards—sometimes blank, sometimes with nifty photos—often turn up at SCRAP and make good covers. The dimensions of the unfolded scrap paper should match those of the unfolded cover paper.

Step By Step

- Fold several pieces of scrap paper in half, as a group
- *Optional:* Tuck the folded paper into a cover
- With the book open, staple through the fold
- With the book closed, punch a hole through the upper left corner
- Thread ribbon through hole and tie.



Learning Concepts

- You can use this simple folded book structure to teach the basic parts of a book: front and back cover, spine and text pages
 - The idea of this project as *wearable art* encourages kids to take pains with their illustrations and written work
- Wearing books goes back at least to Medieval times when a monk or priest would wear a *girdle book* hung from the cord of his habit. The cleric could swing this book of prayers upward for reading while leaving it attached to the cord.

The *horn books* that children used from the 16th through 18th centuries for learning the alphabet also could be worn around the waist or sometimes around the wrist.

“Nothing stimulates children more than the sense of achievement that book art symbolizes.”

— Paul Johnson, educator

Ideas for Using Necklace Books

- Weekly spelling words. Kids can consult their necklace/dictionaries throughout the week up until the spelling test
- Weekly math facts
- ABC books
- Color books
- Mini poetry books
- *All About Me* books
- Drawings & text about friends or family

NECKLACE BOOK TIPS

Have children use a two-hole punch rather than a hand-held one. It's much easier for kids to make a hole by pressing down than by squeezing.

Keep the materials for Necklace Books in an unused pizza box. It's easy to store and light to carry around. If you plan to make a lot of books, consider giving students their own pizza boxes for supplies and works-in-progress. Many pizza places are happy to donate boxes.

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