

## A Simple Model for Monthly Publishing



When you publish children's writing, you honor their hard work and creative thinking. Publishing can be as involved or as easy as you wish to make it. Some teachers publish as often as once a week while others do monthly, as I do. See how publishing works within your time frames and curriculum planning; it's well worth the effort of working it in.

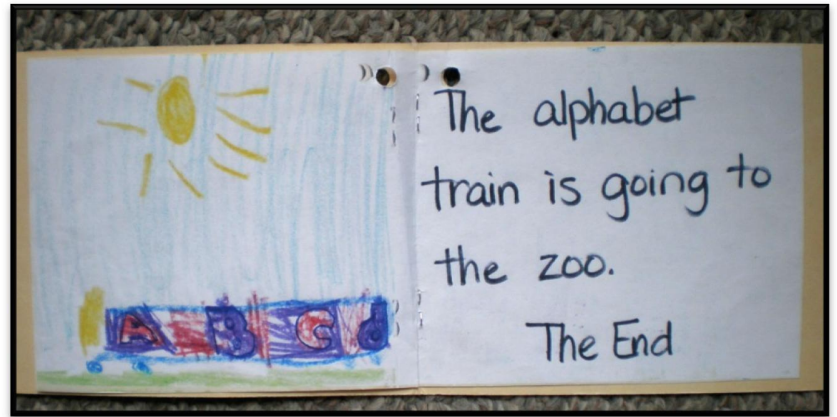
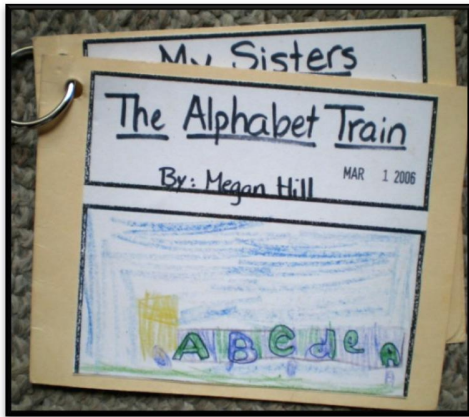


I publish once a month to keep motivation and interest high. First, each child must pick that special piece from their writing book – the one that is their most recent favorite. An exciting step and great teaching moment is choosing the title – another key piece from the CCSS. I act as their editor as the text is written (by myself) into the blank book. I do not ask the children to recopy their story into the book because at this point the purpose is to celebrate their writing. For some children the task of physically writing is laborious and time consuming so in this process they only need to finish the illustrations. Later in the year, when students have more writing stamina, they may take pride in carefully copying their own best work into a final published book



Their books are now ready for both illustrations and embellishments by the child at the start of writing time the following day. The publishing table is set with smelly markers, glitter crayons, multi-colored colored pencils and any other tools that students might find appealing for illustrating purposes. Students eagerly begin the process of completing the illustrations and can't wait to share their books in front of their peers at the end of writing time!

These published books measure 4 ½ X 6" and are made from recycled materials or construction paper covers with white blank paper on the inside. The cover has an attached piece to set off the writing and illustration (see Appendix A).



After books are finished, students come to the Author's Chair and read their book to their classmates although some students will appreciate help from the teacher with their reading. We celebrate with applause and ask the audience if there are any questions about the book. When completed, we add a notebook ring (book hook) to the book's left-hand corner and it is artfully displayed on the Publishing Board.

The publishing board is located within the reading corner for two reasons: its ease of use by students and to ensure that student writing is surrounded by – and thus a natural extension of – the work of published authors and treasured trade books.

By spring, children have many published stories hanging on their book hooks. At the end of the year, the hooks are removed and the students add their collections to their individual portfolios. This is a simple yet powerful way to celebrate young authors.

