



Create a Family Photo Book

WHY CREATE A FAMILY BOOK?

Your children and families will love this book! We have ours available throughout the day for the children to tap into & enjoy. Occasionally there are tears if a little one is feeling homesick, but overall it is a riot of pride and joy as we look through the pages calling out our friends' names & the members of their family.

And we as Educators have opened up many meaningful conversations with our families while sharing experiences with the book. It will take a little effort to create, but it will be SO worth it!!

TAKING "GOOD ENOUGH" PHOTOS

1. Send out a communication to the families giving them the heads up about being photographed.
2. Be ready at drop off & pick up times to snap a quick few photos. Have your camera or Ipad ready & charged.
3. Choose a spot with the family that is quiet & mess free. Try to be as efficient & relaxed as possible. Use a key word the kids love like "Hooray" to instigate a smile. (*that said over half of the photos in our book the children are either looking away or have their hands in their mouths*). At the end of the day, the children are tired, just focus on getting a good smiling photo

of the family member.

4. **Take 4 or 5 photos**, show the family member & ask them which they would prefer. Delete all others on the spot. Be prepared to take another couple if there is not a suitable photo.
5. **Thank & reassure** the family member their little person is going to love having them in their special book!!!

PRINTING YOUR PHOTOS

1. You have two options with printing - print yourself at work/home or get your photos printed at a photo lab.
2. I chose to get our photos printed at Big W for consistency of size & colour. But if you have a colour printer that is NOT misbehaving (like ours) then you could easily (& more economically) print at work.
3. Choose a size you like - Our book photo size is **Square 6" X 6"** (15cm X 15cm) with a white border. (Looks so professional right!?!)

At Big W these cost 80c each to print. They are a great size for a book!! The only issue with this size is it's slightly too big to fit two photos in one A4 laminating pouch. My advice if you're printing yourself, print at 5.5" x 5.5". If printing 6" x 6" be prepared for laminating wastage/offcuts.

4. Of course you can choose your preferred size, colour etc. Maybe you'd prefer a rectangle book in black & white? Whatever you decide, make sure it's really easy for little ones to turn the pages.
5. Also note, we created the book with 60% of the photos taken, then added the extra family photos as we captured them in small batches. Overall, it took about 6 weeks to get photos of everyone. Mums, Dads, Grandparents & Carers. Create a list from your roll & tick them off as you go!!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Printed photographs & cover page
- Laminator & laminating pouches
- Scissors
- Single hole punch
- 3 x 19mm Metal Book Rings



METHOD

HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR BOOK.

1. After your photos are printed, laminate each photo & cut around the edge leaving a 3mm edge, curving the corners to ensure no sharp edges.
2. Leave a 2cm laminate spine on the left hand edge of each photo for the hole punches.
3. Hole punch the top & bottom, then one exactly in the middle. Use this photo as the guide for all the others. Hold it on top as you punch the holes.
4. Pop the rings through your holes & "just like magic" you have a beautiful family book.

Note - To create a beautiful book, all of the photos must line up. Give this job to the wonderful OCD person in your team.

PROGRAMMING & DISPLAY

How our book is incorporated into our day

Our family book is part of our floor resources, often on a shelf for the children to access.

After the morning play session, in the lead up to lunch, we will often sit with the class & the Family Book. The children love to play call & response games.

"Name your friend?" "Who are they with ?" " Let's name the family member, Mum, Dad, Nanny etc" The options are endless & the children really enjoy seeing themselves & their family.

At the end of each day we display the book, with a photo of a family beside the floor book for the families to see at pick up time. Often as they are leaving, the children will be chatting about their friends & the book !!!

Now I'd love to know your thoughts on a family book? Have you made one? How do you like to bring family fun into your room?

Jasmine

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