



12 - Making a book
13 - Putting it all together
14 - Making connections

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What about home-made books?

As children become familiar with the stories of others, they may want to start recording their own stories. Making a home-made book is a natural next step after storytelling and a delightful way to help children learn about books.

You can make a book for a child of any age.

You can make a book about things you know will interest your child, for example:

- a story about a family trip,
- a 'Me Book' with pictures and drawings about the child,
- a book about the family pet,
- a rhyming book,
- holiday books - Christmas, Easter, Halloween,
- a birthday book,
- a book about going to playschool or school,
- a book about going to the doctor, or dentist.

Involving your child in making a book teaches him many things about how books 'work'. He will learn that:

- a book has a cover page with a title;
- the title tells you what this book is about;
- the book is communicating someone's thoughts and ideas to others;
- there is a beginning, a middle and an end to the book;
- the pages are read left to right.

Making home-made books also provides opportunities for learning about writing and numbers. You can encourage your child to:

- help you write the words;
- draw pictures to accompany the words;
- help cut out pictures for gluing onto the pages;
- help fit pictures and other objects onto a page;
- help cut out a design for the book;
- see that numbers are included in many text messages.

Most of all, seeing his own thoughts and experiences produced in book format will boost your child's confidence, especially if other family members give him lots of praise and encouragement!

Making books

Making home-made books is an excellent way to interest your child in reading and writing. You do not need special talents or a brilliant imagination. Just think about your child's own interests. You can make a book with your child, or for your child. Either way, your child will be thrilled to see that his words and everyday experiences are important enough to be published!

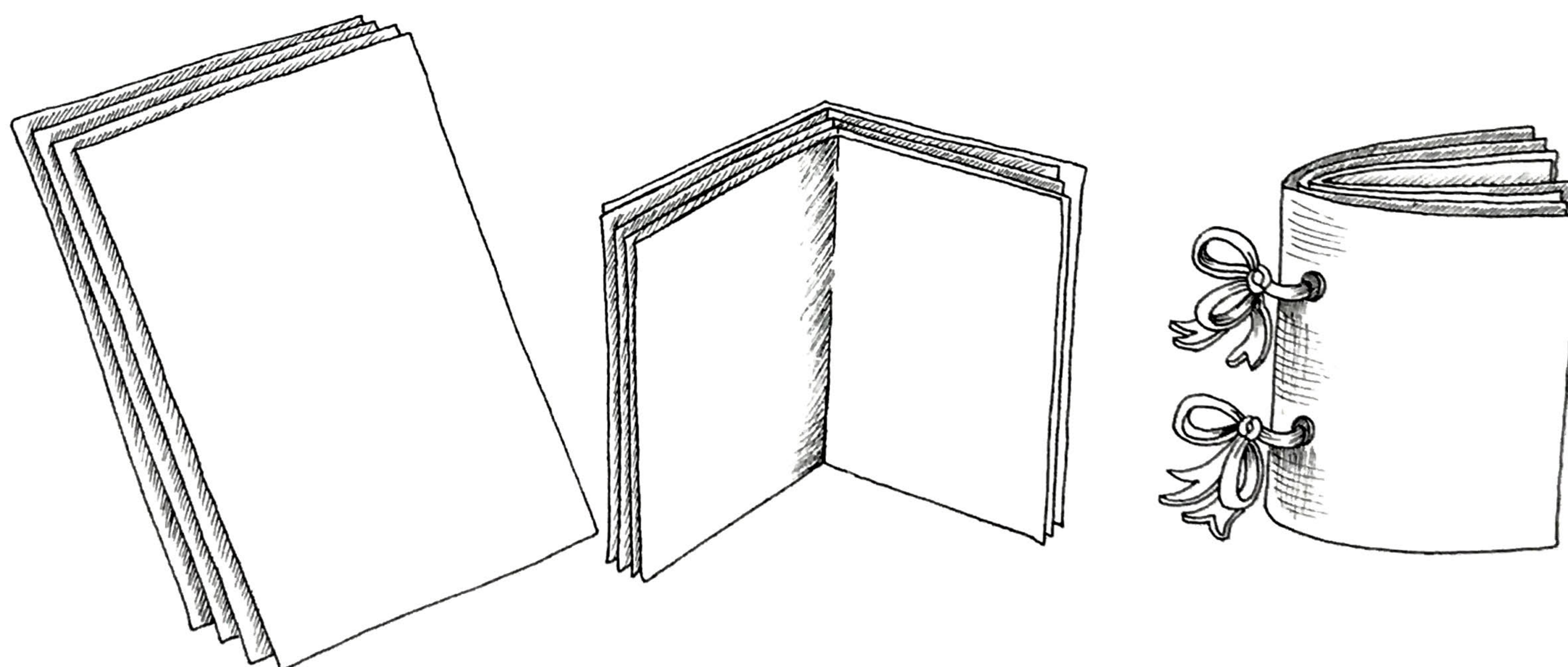
There are many ideas for making books. Here are some suggestions for:

- theme books
- shape books
- scrapbooks
- 'lift the flap' books
- zigzag books

To make the most of these books, you first start with a basic book shape.

Basic book shape

- Place several sheets of paper on top of each other.
- Fold these in half.
- Staple the folded side together or punch holes and thread with ribbon or wool to bind the book.



Theme or shape book

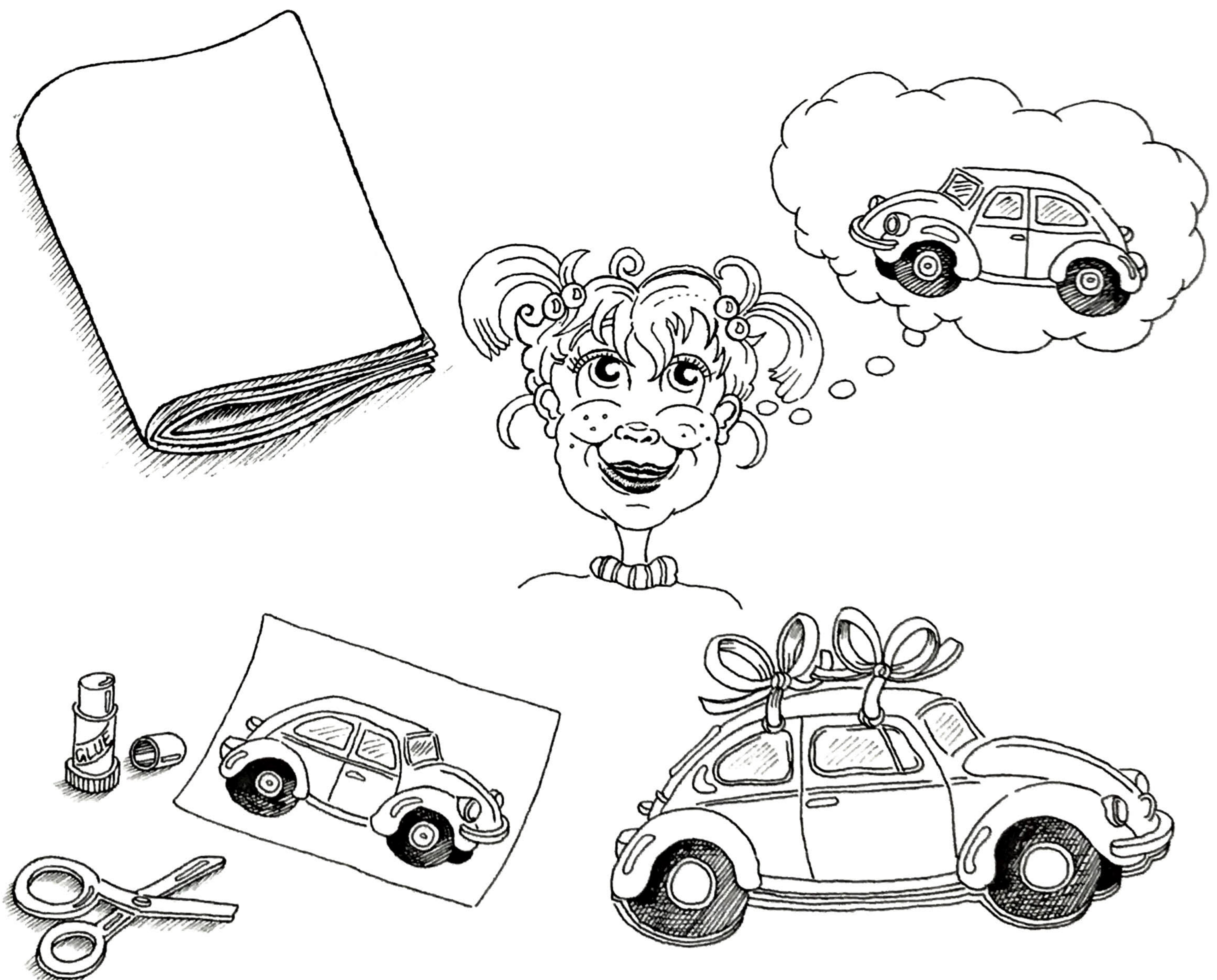
Start by making the basic book shape.

Next, decide on what your book will be about.

Does your child like cars? Make a book about cars and cut it into the shape of a car.

Have you had a visit to the seaside recently? Make a book about your trip and cut it into the shape of a fish.

How about a book called, 'Our House'? You can cut the book into the shape of a house. Your child can help you make the book by filling in the windows and door with squares of coloured cloth. For the inside, cut out pictures of furniture, food, toys, etc.



Scrapbook

Start with the **basic book shape**.

Choose an idea for a topic, such as 'my favourite things', 'my family', 'where I live', 'animals', or 'toys'. The possibilities are endless.

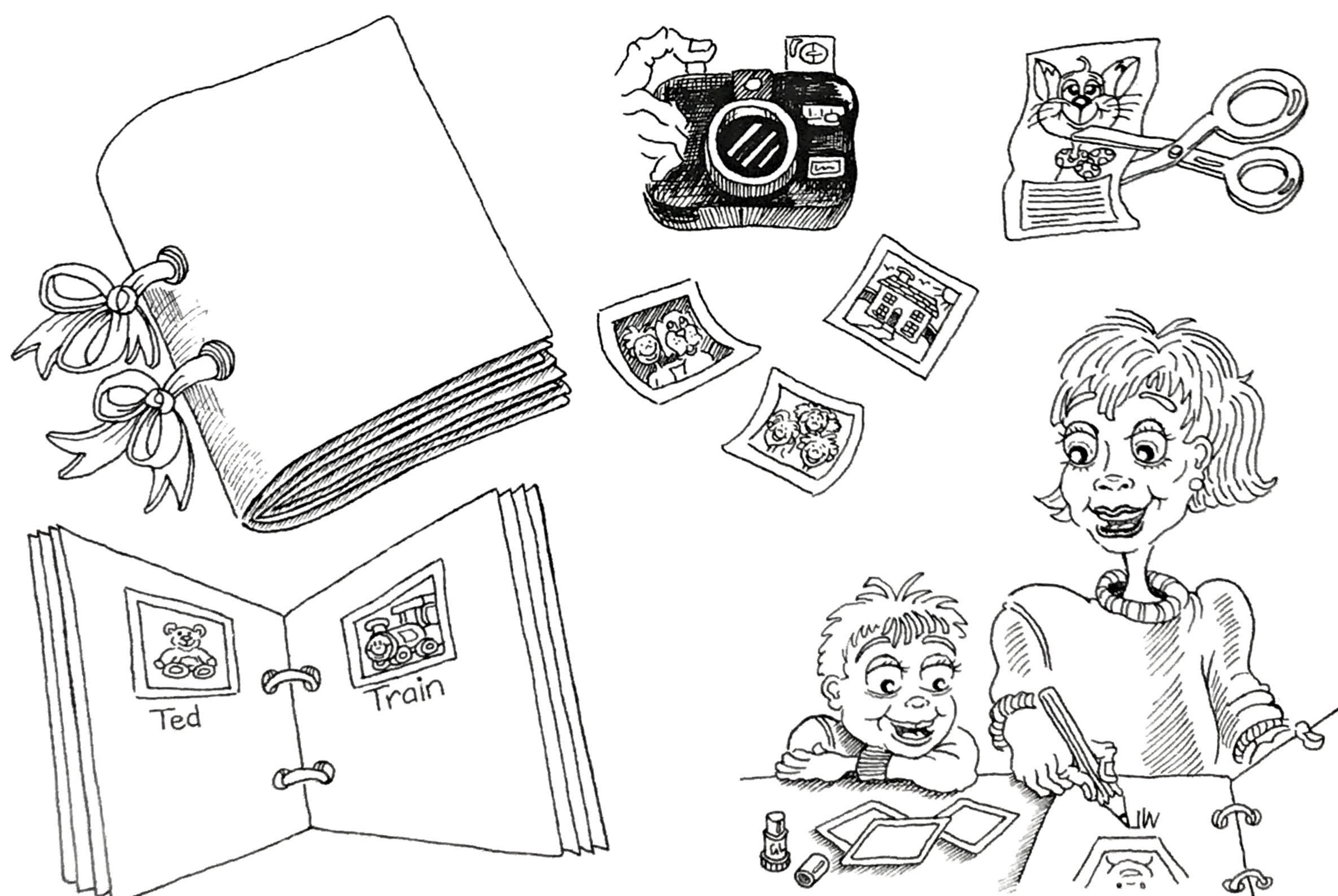
Cut out pictures from magazines or catalogues, or use photographs and stick them into the scrapbook to create the pictures.

If you are making the scrapbook with your child, you can let your child glue the pictures into the book. Talk about the pictures as he sticks them in.

When your child is finished, ask him what he would like you to write under each picture. Read his words or sentences back to him.

Decorate the cover with wallpaper or shiny coloured paper, or let your child draw a picture. Make the book eye-catching.

Punch two holes at the side and weave a ribbon or wool through the holes to make a decorative binding.



'Lift the flap' book

You can use any book shape to make a 'lift the flap' book.

You can use any idea to make a 'lift the flap' book.

You make a 'lift the flap' book by 'hiding' part of a picture or part of the text under a flap (a square of paper or cloth) that can be lifted.

You might make a book about your child's day and hide a picture of one of his favourite toys under a flap on each page.

You might cover up certain words with a small flap. Draw or glue a picture of the hidden word on the flap. Your child can tell what the word is from the picture and then 'lift the flap' to read the print.



Zigzag book

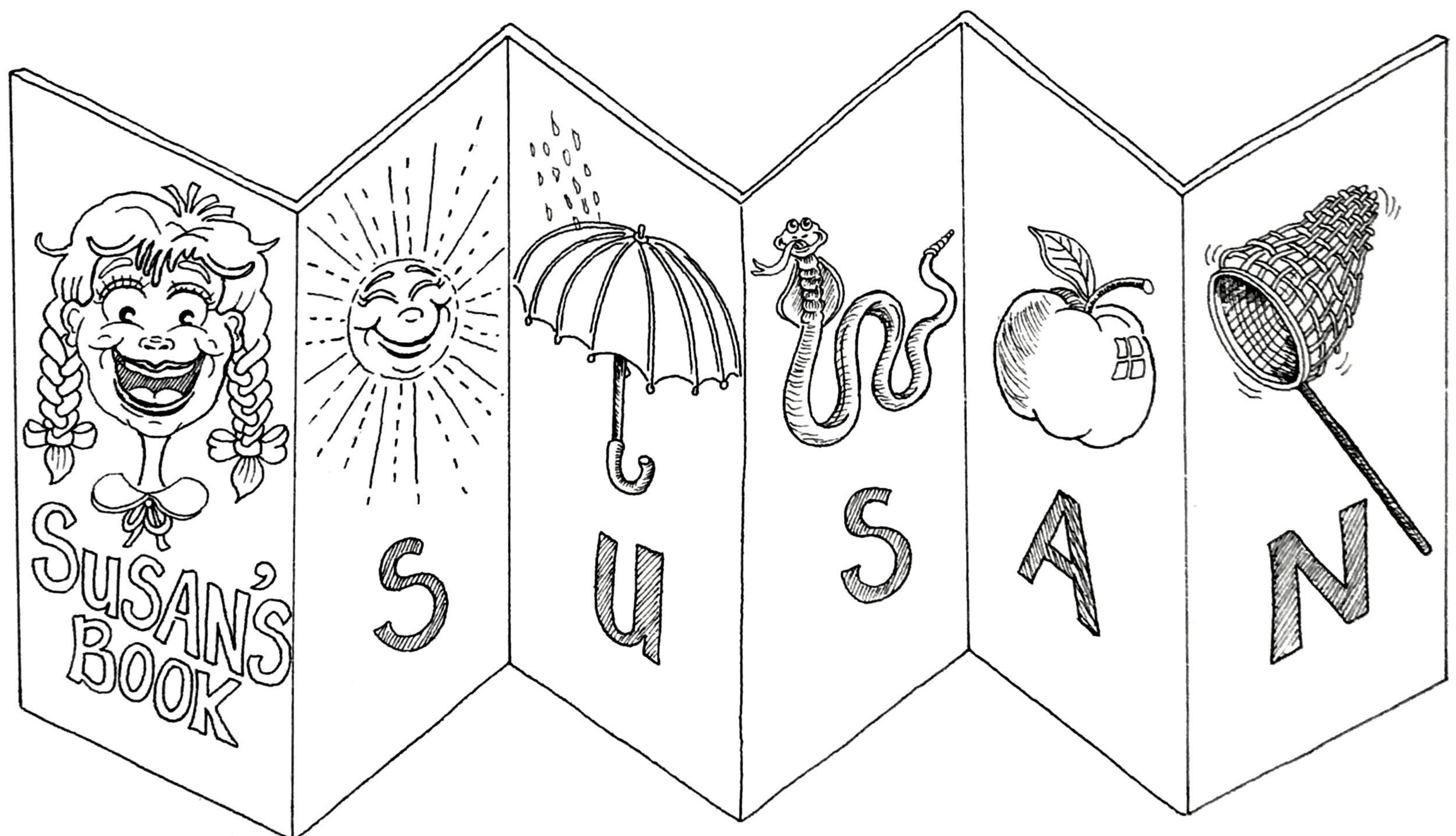
Start with a long strip of paper.

Fold the strip first one way and then the other (accordion style) until you get to the end of the strip.

You can make your zigzag book very simple by putting one letter on each panel to spell out one word or your child's name.

You can also make your zigzag book into a storybook by writing a few sentences on each panel.

Illustrate your book by using magazine pictures or drawings on each panel.





Home-made books

When and where did you share your book?

What did your child like about the book?

What comments did other family members make about the book?

What other types of books does your child like?



A good place to learn

When a child feels comfortable and secure in her environment, she is more confident about trying new things. A child feels relaxed and ready to learn when:

She knows where she is.



She knows the people with her.



She knows what's happening.



She knows what's expected of her.





Learning from play

Does your child like to play pretend games?

What are the pretend games about?

Does your child have a favourite game that she plays frequently?

Does she use props such as toys or does she dress up in costumes?

Are other children involved?

Do these games involve reading, writing or maths activities? Can you give some examples?



What's out there?

What are the resources in your community?

Where would you find:

Family support services

- crèche facilities?
- child minding services?
- parent-toddler groups?
- preschool services?
- parenting courses?
- youth clubs?

Health Board services

- your local hospital?
- mental health services?
- health education courses, e.g. a stress management or first aid course?

Financial advice

- social welfare offices?
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service?
- your local credit union?

Legal advice

- free legal aid?
- family mediation services?

Educational support and services

- a guidance counsellor?
- adult education classes?
- an educational psychologist?
- local primary schools?
- local secondary schools?

Employment services

- job clubs?
- the Unemployment Resource Centre?
- FÁS offices?
- Local Employment Services?
- trade union offices?

Course evaluation

1. How did you find the programme overall?

Very helpful _____

Somewhat helpful _____

Not helpful _____

2. Did the course help you meet your learning aims?

Yes _____

No _____

3. Have you learned things that helped you work with your child on reading, writing and maths?

Yes _____

No _____

4. Has the course helped any other children in the family with reading, writing and maths?

Yes _____

No _____

5. How did you find the organisation of the course?

Excellent _____

Very good _____

Fair _____

Poor _____

6. Was the venue for the course satisfactory?

Yes _____

No _____

Course evaluation

7. Was the timetable for the course satisfactory?

Yes _____
No _____

8. Did the facilitators make you feel comfortable in the course?

Yes _____
No _____

9. Were the facilitators helpful?

Yes _____
No _____

10. Have you learned things from other parents in the group?

Yes _____
No _____

11. Would you recommend this course to other parents?

Yes _____
No _____

12. Any other comments?



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Sponsored by:
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Dubuis Fund, Houston, Texas; FÁS Community Employment.