

EXPERIENCE BOOKS

By
Janelle Kent M.Sc. CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT
*Speech-Language Pathologist
Listening & Spoken Language Specialist
Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist*

Session Objectives

At the end of this session, participants will:

- ❑ Understand what an experience book is
- ❑ Understand the importance and value of using experience books to develop listening and spoken language
- ❑ Understand how to create a meaningful experience book for a variety of ages

What is an Experience Book?

Experience books are personalized stories that encourage meaningful and interactive opportunities for natural development of listening, speech, language and literacy.



- Uses real life pictures
- Often homemade with the student's help
- Books can be about anything
 - people, places, events, achievements, rules, goals...

Why Create an Experience Book?

- Pre & post-teach vocabulary & concepts
- Input language (*Concepts, phrases and vocabulary*)
- Highlight developmentally appropriate language
- Reinforce unique language experiences
- Develop specific grammatical structures
- Practice using language
- Highlight people in child's life
- Highlight an event
- Develop social skills
- Develop story comprehension
- Tell stories or retell stories



Who Can Benefit from an Experience Book?

EVERYONE



How do I Create an Experience Book?

Factors to consider...

1. What is the child's listening/language age?
2. What goals do I want to highlight?
3. What are my story elements?
 - Setting - where & when
 - Characters - who
 - Main idea - what is the story about
 - Problem - what happened
 - Ending/Solution - how does it end
4. What are the child's interests?
5. Be Creative



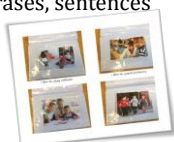
What Can I Use to Create an Experience Book?

- Pictures
- Drawings
- Manipulatives
- File folder
- Sketch book
- Camera
- Print



Different Kinds of Books...

- Laminated pictures
- Pages with ziplock bags
- Paper with pieces glued on
- Photo albums
- Duo tang book
- Use letters, numbers, words, phrases, sentences
- Poster page



Examples for All Ages...

- First year of listening/very low language
 - Book about a song
 - Old Macdonald had a farm
 - Head and Shoulders
 - Itsy Bitsy Spider
 - Learning to Listen Sounds
 - Ahhh-airplane, or up...up...weeee for slide
 - Basic vocabulary/phrases
 - Wash wash...dog, dishes, car, etc.
 - Where's Connor?
 - Familiar objects
 - Hi/bye-bye with familiar people
 - 1-step directions
 - Familiar routines (*brushing teeth, making popcorn, etc.*)
 - Build sequencing



1st Year of Listening Examples

You have a child in your classroom who has a language age of 1 year or less. What kind of experience book might be appropriate for a child in your grade?

Songs or nursery rhymes

Basic phrases

Learning to listen sounds

Familiar people

Basic vocabulary

Familiar Routines

Examples for All Ages...

• 2nd Year of Listening (2-3 year language age)

■ Using repetitive sentences (*I am...This is my...Open the...*)

- Basic grammar
- Basic concepts

■ Key events (*going to the zoo, birthday, vacation*)

■ Child doing different activities (*painting different pictures, variety of actions, etc.*)

■ Theme-based for vocabulary/language development

- About people in child's family/classroom
- emotions
- Parts/descriptions of objects
- Associations
- Functions
- Categories



2nd Year of Listening Examples

You have a child in your classroom who has a language age of 2-3 years. What kind of experience book might be appropriate for a child in your grade?

Following 2-3 step directions

Using 2-4 word phrases

Basic concepts

Basic questions

Sequencing stories/events

Basic grammar

Vocabulary based on parts, functions, associations, & categories

Examples for All Ages...

• 3rd – 5th Year of Listening (3-5 year language age)

- Concepts (*letters, shapes, numbers, sizes, etc.*)
 - Opposite books
 - Phonological awareness
 - Counting objects
- Attributes, similarities, differences
 - What doesn't belong
- Connect print to language
- Reinforce/review unique experiences (*pre-teach, post-teach, retell, etc.*)
 - Field trips
 - School events
 - Special projects
- Highlighting comprehension
 - Wh questions
 - Story elements
- Sequencing events (5 or more steps)
 - Building a lego object
 - Drawing a picture
 - Writing a story



3-5th Year of Listening Examples

You have a child in your classroom who has a language age of 3-5 years. What kind of experience book might be appropriate for a child in your grade?

Following Directions with 4 or more critical elements

Phonological Awareness

School readiness concepts

Story Elements

Simple-complex sentence structure

Auditory comprehension

Expanded vocabulary

Examples for All Ages...

• Higher Level Listening Skills (5+ Language Age)

- Social communication (*proper manners, making new friends, playing a game, etc.*)
- Vocabulary & themes related to curriculum
 - Science fair project
 - Family tree
 - My community
 - Hearing loss journey
- Expanded vocabulary (*jokes, idioms, slang, etc.*)
- More about text & less about pictures
 - Complex sentence structure
 - More advance grammatical features



Higher Level Listening Examples

You have a child in your classroom who has a language age of more than 5 years. What kind of experience book might be appropriate for a child in your grade?

Social Communication

Idioms

Spelling words

Higher level grammatical structures

Expanded story elements

Curriculum-related information
