



HOW TO CREATE CHILDREN'S PICTURE EBOOKS

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Introduction

An eBook is an abbreviation of “electronic book” - a book or any text, poetry, short story etc that is saved in digital form and made available to read on electronic devices like a laptop or desktop computer, a handheld computer, a smartphone or a dedicated eReading device, like a NOOK or a Kindle.

With constant ventures appearing in the field of technology, reading and writing a book is no longer limited to libraries and publishers. Self-Publishers are very commonplace in online bookstores like Amazon, because of the introduction of the eBook. Although an eBook is a digital format and it is not printed, you can easily have your eBook set to “print-on-demand” for a low set up cost, with companies like Createspace.com or Lulu.com, if you wanted to sell your eBook in hard copy as well in digital format.

The eBook has made book creation much simpler than it was in the olden days. Now, you can easily create your own eBook at home, work or anywhere you please, and anyone can do it, you don't have to wait for a large publishing company to pick up your project anymore.

While some people like their books all wordy and technical, others enjoy reading an eBook that's full of pictures and colours. Another reason behind the increased popularity of picture eBooks is their ability to teach and inform people through images rather than just words. Plus, picture eBooks are also helpful in teaching kids about a fact or a place. Children these days are maturing quickly and display the



desire to use modern technology more and more. Therefore, creating a picture eBook can help them understand things and stories at a higher level.

There are many opportunities and reasons people want to create picture eBooks, here's some examples:

- 1 - Wedding or Engagement Photos
- 2 - Children's Books
- 3 - Family Heirloom Photo Collection
- 4 - Holiday Snaps
- 5 - Sporting Event Collection
- 6 - Birthdays and other celebrations

What are the main challenges for people wishing to create Picture eBooks? The two main challenges to create Picture eBooks are:

1. Finding or creating the “right images” or illustrations to use in your eBook; and
- Formatting the eBook when completed to suit the various online publishing platforms like Kindle, Nook and iBooks.

Picture Book Considerations

If you are creating a children's Picture eBook, then I suggest you keep in mind a few guidelines to keep your eBook popular in the open market. Here are my suggestions:

1. Keep your word count relevant to your target demographic. Babies to Toddlers should have minimal words, 4-5yos should have short paragraphs on each page at the most, primary school age and above have 500 words in total and upwards depending on your book.

2. Always use simple fonts like Times New Roman (this eBook uses Calibri in size 14). Font sizes should be 12 to 14.

3. Keep away from bullet points, don't use page numbers and you can centre items, in fact for images, you should centre them.

4. Map out your eBook story on a "story board" which is simple collection of mocked up pages, telling your story in summary. How many pages and how long your story depends on your intention as an author. If you are in any doubt, always check out your competitors as a guide.

5. Always check each publishing company's individual formatting requirements, and always check your formatting in a finished published format before you walk away from the project.

1. Remember many eReaders (like most Kindles) are only black and white. Therefore, you should make sure your images look nice in colour and in black and white too.



2. If you are not an artist or illustrator, and you don't want to buy stock "sold to the public" images, you can hire someone online (outsource) to do the work for you. Don't be afraid to give illustration creation a go, you'd be surprised how easy it is. Kids don't need fancy, they need fun and colour.

3. Mock up some basic graphic picture ideas whether you intend to create your own images or outsource the work. Either way, you or your artist have to work from some baseline of what you want to achieve overall.

4. There are many ways you can "colour" your images, you could leave them black and white (like an outline), you could colour them in online with a graphics program like Photoshop (paid), Gimp or Inkscape (both free online), you can colour them in offline with a colouring paint medium to use on paper, like oils, acrylics or water colours.

Writing your Story

1. Use your basic story board you have created.

Publishing Considerations

2. Talk to your child, or another (target demographic aged) child to see what they like to read about.

3. Talk about colours, images, topics and ideas and try to incorporate these things into your picture eBook story.

4. Write out each page, one at a time.

1. Get your picture ideas together and put them to each page (if you are putting a picture on each page – you don't have to. You could just have a couple of pictures per book if they were really good and detailed).

2. Once finished, scan any artwork you have to get them on to your computer and match up your writing with the images. The easiest software to do this with is Word for Windows. If you don't have Word, you could use Open Office (a free online equivalent to Word).

3. Create the whole book in A4, however, depending on where you intend to publish your eBook (eg. Kindle, iBooks etc) there will be some adjustments to be made when you go to upload your eBook with the respective online publishers.



There are several methods to publishing an eBook that mainly include the usage of Kindle, PDF, Word and iBook formats. In this book, you'll be learning how to create a picture eBook from scratch ready to save as a PDF document at the end.

Whether you chose to sell your eBook on Amazon Kindle, Apple's iBookstore or Barnes & Noble's Nook, if you can create and save your eBook as a Word document (.doc) you will be able to easily format your eBook to suit any of those stores when you are ready to publish your eBook.

When you create a picture eBooks to sell on Kindle, iBooks or Barnes & Noble, you need to first make sure that your eBook is enhanced with entertaining and informative images. However, inserting images into eBooks is not always straight forward and can seriously affect the final formatting of the eBook once published online. You should always check with each individual publisher as to the up to date formatting recommendations and guidelines for individual companies.

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