

# HOW TO WRITE A CHILDREN'S BOOK CHECKLIST

## Step 1: Get Your Children's Book Ideas

### Choose your age range

- Board Book – Ages 0 to 3 – Minimal words, mostly pictures.
- Picture Book – Ages 2 to 5 – 200 to 400 words, pictures on every page.
- Chapter Book – Ages 6 to 10 – 3,000 to 10,000 words, pictures on most pages.
- Middle Grade Book – Ages 8 to 12 – 30,000 to 45,000 words, limited pictures.

### View a list of [Story Prompts](#) to gain ideas.

### Try ChatGPT to generate ideas for your book

### Review appropriate Children's Book Categories on Amazon

### Vet your children's book idea

- Use [Publisher Rocket](#) to find keywords for your book, vet the book's categories to make sure they are high demand/low competition

## Step 2: Write Your Children's Book

### Choose your book format (Ebook or Paperback or Both?)

### Choose a title that grabs reader attention, clearly says what the story is about, is easily searchable, and/or has keywords that your audience is searching for

### Find your writing style

- **Rhyme:** When writing in rhyme, ensure good rhyming, consistent syllable counts, rhythms, and avoid forcing bad rhymes or skipping, with examples like The Little Blue Truck and Llama Llama books.
- **Past or Present Tense:** Kids prefer present tense books for active engagement, experiencing events as they happen, like the Maisy

books.

- **First or Third Person:** Third-person gives flexibility and is preferred by children, but choose first-person if it aligns with your theme.

**Incorporate the 5 important elements**

1. Unforgettable characters
2. Suspenseful action/hook
3. Realistic dialogue
4. Good storyline
5. Instant recall factor

**Write the book**

**Edit the book/get an editor/proofread**

**Choose whether to hire someone to illustrate or DIY**

**Choose your orientation (vertical, horizontal, square)**

**Choose your trim size, here are the most common ones:**

- 5.5" x 8.5"
- 6" x 9"
- 6.14 x 9.21"
- 7" x 10"
- 8" x 10"
- 8.5" x 8.5"
- 8.5" x 11"

**Choose your illustration style and medium**

- Cartoonish
- Realistic
- Wondrous
- Line drawing
- Sketch illustration
- Abstract illustration
- Stylized and exaggerated
- Vintage
- Bold and bright
- Muted or subdued

- Watercolor
- Acrylic
- Pencil art
- Charcoal
- Collage
- Multimedia
- Digital painting
- Vector illustrations

- Illustrate the children's book (or have it illustrated for you)
- Illustrate the book cover (can sometimes be different from the interior)

### Step 3: Format Your Children's Book

- Combine text and illustration
- Select your formatting program (we recommend [Atticus](#))
- Format for the correct trim size (selected above)
- Set your illustrations at full bleed (unless not applicable)
- Export to EPUB and PDF

### Step 4: Publish Your Children's Book

- Choose between a traditional publisher or the self-publishing method (trad-pub will require seeking an editor and agent)
- Get feedback from readers
- Purchase an ISBN number + Barcode
- Copyright your book
- Choose keywords carefully using Publisher Rocket
- Get review for your book
- Pick the most relevant social media platform and build an audience there
- Plan school visits