Write and Illustrate a Story

Write a true or make-believe collaborative story with your children.

Materials:
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Lined paper
- Markers

Directions:

1. For a true story: Use photos of a trip or another event in your children's lives to help them recall and narrate the sequence of events. Ask them questions to trigger memories, like: “What did Aunt Ida forget to take to the beach that day?”

2. For a make-believe story: Ask your children to provide the first sentence, such as: “Once upon a time, we went to school and found an elephant waiting for us in the classroom.” Add to the story bit by bit, and write down the words as your children tell you. If needed, ask questions to provide direction: “What did the elephant say when it broke all the chairs?”

3. Illustrate the story: When the story is finished, read it back to your children. Encourage them to add to it and draw pictures.

Tips:

With a group: Have one child offer the opening of a story, with each child adding to it one after another. The last child may make up the ending. Afterwards, give each child another's part of the story to illustrate.

Make it a book: Write the story as a multi-page book, adding the children's illustrations. You may want to tape the pages together in a long row, then fold it accordion style. The story can be read as a book, or displayed as a wall mural.

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