

How to Record Audio & Video Stories

Some children will feel more comfortable telling a story aloud, versus writing it. Here are some guidelines for helping them prepare for and record an oral story.

1. Planning and Outlining

Have them think about what they want to say. Jotting down notes or key words in bullet points will help them remember their main ideas or the sequence of events. Encourage them, as you would for kids who are writing stories, to use description and detail and to expand on the basic framework of the story. For example, if they say, "Then we played at the park." Ask them: "What did you play? Who else was there? What was the weather like? What did the park look like?"

2. Practicing

Record with any device they have (phone/laptop/tablet/camera). Have them practice their story out loud once, twice, or as many times as you want, and play it back to see how it sounds! Encourage them to take notes as they listen.

3. Record!

» For video:

- Stand or sit in one place, facing (or close) where the light is coming from (a lamp or window).
- Be as expressive as you like! You can act, dance, sing too!
- It is best to record in landscape orientation (holding your phone horizontally).

» **For audio:**

- You can use a cell phone's voice recorder, or a computer with a mic.
- Try to be close to the device without moving it too much.
- You could place it on a table in front of the kid while he/she/they read their story out loud.

4. Save and Share

Save the file as any of these accepted formats: WAV, MP4, MP3, M4A. Instructions will be made available as to where these files should be uploaded.