

The idea below was developed for children and focuses on fostering literacy skills. Other ideas in the book were developed for adolescents and adults.

The book has three sections which cover a range of areas: (1) building interaction skills; (2) providing supports for memory and task completion and (3) developing literacy skills.



#20 Our Field Trip Report

Students can work collaboratively to create a talking record of their field trip. For example:

Photo/symbol	Message
Photo of the students at the entrance to the Fire Department	<i>Here we are at Fire Station #3. Let's go inside!</i>
Map showing the route to the field trip destination	<i>This is how we got to the fire department. We passed right by Wild Waters! But we got stuck in traffic on the way home.</i>
Photo of the Ladder Truck and the icon of a fire station	<i>This truck raises its tall ladder to let fire fighters rescue people from tall buildings. It's so long, there's a separate steering wheel at the back.</i>
Photo of the living quarters	<i>This is where the fire fighters sleep, eat and play when they're waiting for a call.</i>
Photo of a child trying on a fire hat, boots & coat	<i>My favorite part was trying on the fire fighter's uniform. Those boots are huge!</i>
Photo of a child shaking hands with a fire fighter	<i>I liked meeting the fire fighters. I want to be a fire fighter when I grow up!</i>

Core of the Idea

Students collaborate to create a talking, pictorial report of a field trip or special event such as a school rally, fair, or performance. Each student or small group contributes at least one page to the report. This

Benefits

- Fosters cooperative learning.
- Enables learners with mixed abilities to work together to create a report.
- Enables students to retell and recall a special trip or experience.
- Can enable learners at an emerging

allows students of mixed abilities to work together, whether they're in an inclusive classroom, special needs class or club setting. The book can then be used in class, between grades, and at home. Emerging readers benefit from the opportunity to read a page, then listen to it, then read it again.

literacy level to write, tell and read about a recent event in which they participated. This is a great bridge to literacy because students will repeatedly encounter and work with words and phrases related to something they know.

- Can enable students with emerging reading skills to share a story with younger students, siblings or a peer.
- Can enable students to practice independent reading and then check themselves by playing the recorded phrase.

Tips for Implementation

1. Paste appropriate title information on the front cover. Example: "Our Trip to the Fire Department" by Room 3, or "Camping at Diamond Lake" by Cub Scout Troop #503.
2. Have students choose photos or make drawings, then plan what they say.
3. Assemble all the pictures and phrases first, then arrange them in a logical order. You can assign this job to two or more "student editors."
4. Have each student or group write and edit his/her messages. Dictating, copying, re-reading and recording gives learners repeated opportunities to work with words and develop literacy skills.
5. Paste the written version of the recorded messages on the bottom of the photos, to encourage early literacy.
6. If students choose to draw a picture, give them an appropriately sized paper, or plan to scan, resize and print their work so it will fit in the photo album. (Many students do better drawing on a larger scale for later reduction). Some students may be able to create a picture using a drawing or painting program on a computer.

Contributed by Kirsten Haugen.

HINTS ON RECORDING

Record speech or sound in a quiet space, with no background noise.

Check frequently with the individual to make sure they are comfortable with how the messages are recorded.