



3: Chat Books

Encourage all families in the Centre to create Chat Books for their child.

Display folders full of photos, drawings, item remnants, and written comments in the first person can be used to help children engage in conversation with Educators about events that have happened beyond the centre.

Chat Books can grow with a child's experiences and outings. Encourage parents to remove old information to keep each child's Chat Book current and related to recent events.

Educators can also use a child's Chat Book to post photos and drawings about what has happened during a child's day in care. This can help children to communicate with parents after each day in care.

Remember to limit your use of questions when using Chat Books to interact with children. Simply wait for the child to offer some verbal information or to interact by pointing at a picture. Then comment on what the child has shown you.

Chat Books are particularly useful for children who have difficulties with speech and language skills. The photos, drawings and remnants provide context regarding the child's topic for Educators and this limits the communication breakdowns that would otherwise occur.

Children experience a successful interaction despite their difficulties in communicating verbally.

