

FINAL SUBMISSION TOOLKIT

Early Childhood Book Challenge



OUR CHALLENGE MISSION

**We are seeking manuscripts
for a children's book that
engages children (ages 0 to 3)
and provides adults with ways
to support early language
development.**

What we're looking for...

A manuscript that excites and educates caregivers about the opportunities and importance of reading, singing, and talking together, to support early language development.

A manuscript that engages young children in their earliest years with a story that makes the book a favorite.

A manuscript that reflects the lived experience of families living in urban U.S. cities like Philadelphia.

OUR CHALLENGE GOAL

**We want this manuscript
to model early literacy
practices through a children's
books narrative.**

Desired Caregiver-Child Interaction Outcomes

Make Reading an Interactive Experience

- Transfer ownership of the story from you as the reader to the children
- ‘Push-in’ key vocabulary that build oral language necessary for children to express themselves
- Teach key concepts that cause children to think critically about the story problem

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Language

- How to incorporate Tier 1 and Tier 2 language into narratives

Explore big Ideas

- Big ideas are the take away points students should have at the end of the reading experience

Engage in Meaningful Conversations

- A book should serve as the foundation to engage in meaningful conversations with children. Children will have questions, opinions, ideas, and comments as they try to make sense of what was read. A meaningful conversation will expose children to an array of thoughts and ideas.

Does your manuscript have the following?

1

Labeling

Labels enhance narrative, and use appropriate language to do so. Does your manuscript have at least two-thirds Tier 1 Vocabulary words with select Tier 2 Vocabulary words.

2

Rhyme

Utilize rhyme throughout your manuscript as a as a language development tool. Does your manuscript utilize rhyme?

3

Repetition

Retell a specific piece of phrase of your story to emphasize with consistency. Does your manuscript re-emphasize a specific phrase or message throughout the story?

4

Structure

Organization is everything. Does your manuscript have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

5

Questions

Does your manuscript incorporate questions to increase interaction between children 0 to 3 and caregivers with “right there questions?”

6

Show Don't Tell

Use language that shows in your narrative, not telling. Does your manuscript use language that shows, not tells?

7

Take Time to Revise

Good picture books don't happen overnight. Take time to receive feedback. Have you received feedback on your manuscript from children 0 to 3 and their caregivers?

6

Model Early Literacy for Caregivers

Does your manuscript model early literacy practices for caregivers through a children's books narrative?

Have you utilized these resources?

Early Childhood Research

Children learn more between the ages of 0-3 year than ever again in their lives. These Early Childhood Research resources provide insights into the physiological and psychological development of children, which can be incorporated into your stories through character sketches, storylines, rhythm and more.

Book Writing

It can be a challenge to write a book for an audience as young as 0-3 year-olds. You need to say a lot through a short story, use the correct vocabulary, and keep young, wandering minds engaged. This section supports your understanding of some basic rules, methods, and tricks to write for this audience of children (0 to 3), families, and caregivers.

Urban Context

Some of you may be familiar with the experiences of those in the Philadelphia community, but others of you may not. This section contains a mix of articles, podcasts, documentaries, and resources that provide a window into the lives and learning experiences of children, families, and caregivers in the Philadelphia community.

Challenge How-To's

Challenge resources created by the OpenIDEO team to support your navigation of the OpenIDEO platform and creating a successful manuscript.

Must-Reads

Evaluation Criteria

These Early Childhood Book Challenge manuscripts will be evaluated according to this criteria.

Vocabulary Resources

Vocabulary resources that specifically address Tier 1 Vocabulary and Tier 2 Vocabulary.

- [101 Tier 1 words in English and Spanish](#)
- [101 Tier 2 words in English and Spanish](#)
- [Basic Vocabulary Terms](#)

Challenge Personas

These Early Childhood Book Challenge Personas provide a window into the lives of end-users (in this case, the end-readers), for whom you are creating this manuscript.

Thank you!

Questions? Email us.
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