

Flip-Book Fun

6 and up

A flip-book is a small book with the same images on each page that change slightly, so that when you quickly flip through the pages of the book it gives the illusion of movement or animation. Making an original flip-book with your child is simple – all you need are the following materials and some creativity.



Supplies:

- 8x13 cm (3"x5") recipe cards, blank on one side, are best. The cards are heavier and flip well. Even when using the blank side, the lines can help keep your work aligned page to page. Bond paper works, but it is trickier for little fingers to flip.
- Pencil, eraser, pencil crayons, markers, (wax crayons may make the pages too sticky to flip easily)
- Scissors if cutting your own pages—be precise
- A method of binding the pages together - a bulldog clip is the simplest, or use a hole punch and round-head brass fasteners (or recycle an old duo-tang), staples are your last choice as they make it difficult to add, remove or rearrange pages as you work.

Steps:

- 1: If cutting your own pages, cut 8x13 cm (3"x5") rectangles. Rectangular pages allow for the illustrations and a margin for the spine, where the clamp will hold all the pages together. The more pages in your book the better. A card stock back page adds support and can help the pages flip more smoothly.
 - 2: Clamp a few pages together to see how much space you need for the spine and how much remains for your pictures.
 - 3: Fill in your book. Keep the image simple, use stick figures to start. Draw slight changes and make lots and lots of draws. Work in pencil and add colour later. Try something that gradually 'moves' across the page, like an inch worm. You can draw a story about something that changes size like a seed growing into a flower. Show how a tadpole becomes a frog, a dragonfly chases a mosquito. With some practice, you can add words to your project too.
- Tip:** It can be helpful to trace parts of your picture from one page to the next. This can keep your horizon and scenery in the same place and your character's basic size and shape the same.
- 4: Add pages to your book as you finish them. Do a flip check frequently to see if you need to add any pages to smooth out the animation.
 - 5: Add a title page and you're done. Time to flip, flip, and flip some more! Make personalized flip books as gifts for friends and family.



A few key pages from *The Snowman's Nose*

Tip: Creating a flip book is a fun way to study the mechanics of movement. See *Tracking Stories* activity for how a bunny hops.

