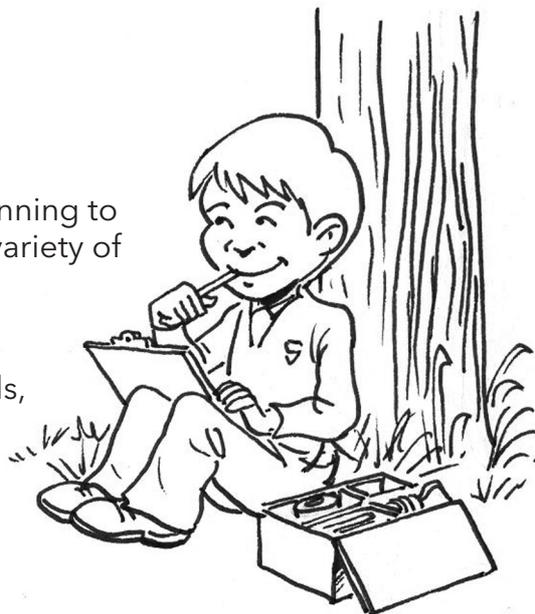


The Authors' and Illustrators' Toolkit

What you need:

- A plastic toolbox with a handle. If you are planning to stay outdoors in all weathers the kind with a variety of compartments and a snap-down lid is best.
- Pens and pencils in a variety of sizes, sticky notes, string, sticky tape, envelopes, postcards, writing paper, spiral bound notebooks, etc. Scissors are great too but make sure to also include left-handed ones.



What you do:

- Put the writing and illustrating equipment into the toolbox. Explain to the children that they can use it to draw and write outside and transport it to wherever they choose within their designated areas. Make clipboards available so that it is easy for the children to write anywhere and everywhere. Try and offer these in different sizes if possible to encourage mark making at different scales. Observe which ones the children choose for different activities.
- You might want to create one toolkit for each group or, if resources allow, two or three sets as children enjoy being able to write in a special place of their choice.
- Share favourite books outside. Tell the story but also discuss how the book is created combining words and pictures. Can you create a picture book of your own? This activity will also give you the opportunity to model what authors and illustrators do. Can groups create books to share with other bubbles?

Further possibilities:

- Add other special things to keep interest going and stimulate further ideas, for example glitter pens, dark paper and chalk, charcoal, etc.
- Add a selection of ready-made small books to the kit, to motivate the children even more. Think creatively about different styles including recipe books, comics, manuals etc.
- Introduce a camera and talk with them about how they could use photographs to illustrate their books.

