



# Checklist of Dos and Don'ts When Writing Children's Books



## Dos

- Use the **right tone** that is confident and respects your young readers without “babying” or patronizing them.
- Choose vocabulary that is **age-appropriate** and engaging. (If it's too easy, they'll feel talked down to; if it's difficult they won't have the confidence to read on.)
- Make sure your book is of an **appropriate length** compared to other books in the same category.
- Create **character(s) that have flaws** as well as strengths. This makes your characters feel real (even if they're wizards or elves). When your characters feel real, your readers will believe in them.
- Make sure your book is **entertaining for young readers as well as their parents**. This is not a must, but it's definitely a plus.

## Don'ts

- Don't include too much text in picture books:** your readers are at a visual age so the text mainly complements the illustrations.
- Don't model your book solely on classics;** seeking inspiration from current bestsellers can keep your work fresh and engaging.
- Don't choose a cover simply because you like its aesthetic;** ensure it reflects the story and appeals to children.
- Don't make your book sound preachy.** Even if your book aims to teach children something, make sure the message is subtle and not too direct.
- And finally, **don't rush the writing process;** take the time to refine your story and characters.