A unique educational, therapeutical and fun experience!

BY KIDS TO KIDS®

User Guide
Welcome to the By Kids to Kids® User Guide. By now you will have seen what the Experience is all about, and its essence to provide a fun tool for use either in the classroom to strengthen their knowledge of a given subject or to explore their world and feelings, or for use in therapeutic groups.

Expression is key in both cases. Our job is to make the process easy, fun, inspiring and rewarding.

In this guide we have outlined the simple steps and elements of the experience to bring stories and drawings to life.

The experience is always implemented under the guidance of an adult. This can be a teacher, a monitor, a parent (if homework is involved), a social worker or a psychologist or a combination of these. In the following guidelines, we use the term adult to refer to any of the above.

The supervising adult can decide the time frame most suitable for the story and art development. Some are done in a couple of days others take a week or more. It is always important to keep the children motivated, involved and interested.

Read on to get started and have fun!

Four simple steps for a fun experience...

1. Create a Story
2. Write the Story
3. Create the Drawings
4. Record and Photograph

Get an animated film + printed book of the story

Materials you will need
- White sheets of papers, preferably A4 - no lines
- Coloring pencils, or crayons, watercolors, etc.
- A mobile phone or a computer
- A camera or a mobile phone with a camera or a scanner
- Internet access
- A quiet location to record the episode’s voice over

Create the Story

One of the things that makes By Kids to Kids® a wonderful experience is that there are no pre-defined stories or themes. By Kids to Kids® can be used to discuss current topics, boost school subjects, work on behaviors, solve conflicts, talk about daily or difficult subjects, or simply just as a fun activity to create stories based on fantasies and imagination. The choice of the theme/story is entirely up to the children, adult or institution.

The first step to the By Kids to Kids® experience is coming up with a story. Start by choosing a theme that interests everyone.

Having a central theme for the story can help generate ideas. Inspiration for the theme can come from a variation of different sources. Here are some to name a few...

- A true story that happened with one or more children in the class.
- A current subject the children are studying about. For example, if they are studying about water pollution the story can be of a fish and what happens to him.
- A problem faced by some children, i.e. bullying or moving to a new school. How is the problem solved?
- Themes like friendship, loneliness, etc.

Even a simple picture or drawing can be a source of great inspiration. For example, the picture of a sad looking boy. Motivate the children to come up to a reason why the boy is sad. How can he get happy again, who will help him, etc. Pictures of animals also a great source of inspiration that children can relate to and enjoy.
Now that you have defined the theme of the story, it is time to write it. The adult may need to help the children, depending on their age. The story you will write will be used as a narrative and later recorded and used in the animation to tell the story. It is important to keep the story concise and use words the children will understand and preferably with phrases the children themselves use.

The narrative is the telling of the story the way it is, like if you were writing/reading a story to a child.

Some additional tips to writing a short story:

- Define who the characters are. Who is in the story? Who is the main character? There may be more than one. Will your story have any secondary characters (i.e. the girl can have a baby brother, or a dog, or both). What are the names of the characters. Not all have to have names.

- Define the setting / where will the story take place. Will it be in the school, at home, at a park, etc.? Defining this is important when it comes to creating the drawings.

- Have an incident or happening. This would be the event or decision that changes or challenges the main character(s).

- Have of a climax – the high point in the story where the main character(s) has to make a decision or a choice.

- End with a resolution. The resolution wraps up the story. It tells whether the main character succeeds or fail to achieve his/her goal. Maybe your main character gets what he/she wants or perhaps they make a compromise. What is the story trying to teach?

- To give your story a name. Don’t worry about giving your story straight away. Most of the time the title is defined after the story is created.

Before you start making the drawings we suggest you make a list of the characters and elements to be drawn. The elements would be things like trees, the sun, a house, a school, etc. – anything that will help set the story and add life to it.

With the list in hand, you can define who is going to draw what.

The drawings must be made on a white sheet of paper (no lines), preferably A4 or letter size.

- The individual drawings must be at least 10cm to 15cm high. If they are too small they will not work well in the animation.

- When drawing arms and legs, please keep them a bit distant from the body of the character (this will help our producers include movement and animation).

- Characters, backgrounds and elements must be drawn separately. i.e. if you are drawing a character in a garden, the character must be on one page, and the garden elements in another page. If the character for example is a butterfly, then the butterfly must be drawn separately from the garden. If a girl is in her room, then she must be drawn on one page and the room on another page.

This is so our producer can animate the story, giving movement to the characters without interference.
The children do not have to draw worry about movement nor draw in sequence. Our producers will take care of that. For example, if the girl in the story is running, they do not have to draw her running (unless they want to, of course). They can just draw her standing and we will animate the run later.

Just a quick reminder that the entire animation will last less than 2 minutes, so if the group sends too many drawings we may not be able to include all.

Now get out the paper and coloring pencils and let the creativity begin!

Recording the Story

Now it is time for the children to narrate the story and record the voices of the characters. Depending on the age of the children, they may not be able to read and will therefore need help to know what to say. Some children may also find it a bit difficult to use intonation (i.e. and then came the BIG wolf) that adds life to the story.

If you encounter this challenge, we suggest that an adult read out the phrase and then the child repeats the phrase. Go phrase by phrase and use intonation when necessary. When sending the narrative, it does not matter that the adults voice is heard. It will be edited out by our producers.

It is best if there is only one child doing the entire narrative for a better understanding of the story. If there is dialogue in the story, then these can be recorded by other children.

Remember, as mentioned earlier in the guideline, the narrative should be in 3rd person. This makes the story more understandable. It must also not exceed 1 minute and 30 seconds.

The narrative and the voices can be recorded on a mobile phone, computer, or other recording device as long as the file can be sent/uploaded via the internet.

Photos of the Drawings

By Kids to Kids will need pictures/photographs of all the drawings separately. You can take these on a mobile device, camera or scan them.

If there are different characters, please write the name of the character in the corner of the drawing or include it in the file name.

It is important that the photos are taken in a well-lit place and with no shadows. Hang them on the wall for example with direct light.

Send it all in!

This is the last step! Send us an e-mail containing the written story, the recorded voice over / narrative and the photographs of your drawings.

After By Kids to Kids receives the story, the drawings and the recorded narrative and voices, our producers will start the animation process. Estimated production time is of 10 working days. You will then receive your finished animation either through our website or one of your choice. You will also receive a printed book with your story and drawings. Then get the children together and ENJOY!!!!

What is Next?

Scan the QR Code below and watch some animated film created with stories and drawings from children around the world.
If you have any questions or doubts please contact us at any time and we will be glad to help.

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