



THE SELF-PUBLISHER'S COMPLETE CHILDREN'S BOOK PRINTING GUIDE

Pricing, Specs, and Everything Else You
Need to Print Your First Book

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See and feel our paper quality before you order. Request a free sample packet with paper swatches and our complete printing guide.

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[START YOUR BOOK](#)

Why This Guide?

This guide was created by PrintingCenterUSA's team of printing experts to give you everything you need to confidently create and print a professional children's book. Whether it is your first issue or your fiftieth, we are here to help at every step. [Get started today.](#)

CHILDREN'S BOOK PRINTING

Bring Your Story to Life with Professional Printing

CHILDREN'S BOOK PUBLISHING IS BOOMING. HERE'S WHY NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME.

The US children's book publishing industry is [worth \\$3.3 billion](#) and the self-publishing side is where the real momentum is. The children's book self-publishing market is projected to [grow from \\$5.6 billion in 2025 to \\$6.8 billion by 2032](#). More first-time authors are entering the market than ever before, and print-on-demand technology has [reduced upfront costs by 60 to 70% compared to traditional print runs](#). The window for independent authors has never been wider.

PrintingCenterUSA has been printing children's books for first-time authors, teachers, and Self-publishers for over 50 years. No minimums. No brokers.

Real people who check your files before anything goes to press.

Most first-time authors tell us they waited too long. Your book is already written. The only thing left is printing it.



Print 1 Copy Starting at

\$6.60

Qty	Size	Standard	Wait & Save
1	8 x 8	\$6.60	\$6.60
25	8 x 8	\$70.79	\$59.37
100	8 x 8	\$201.28	\$187.26
250	8 x 8	\$375.04	\$357.54
500	8 x 8	\$565.40	\$544.10

*Based on 8 x 8, saddle-stitch, 8 pages, 100# text. Prices may vary.

GET AN INSTANT QUOTE

WHAT KIND OF BOOK ARE YOU PRINTING?

Knowing your book type helps you choose the right size, page count, and paper. Here is a quick breakdown.

Type	Ages	Word Count	Description
Board Books	0-3	0-300 words	Thick, durable pages for babies and toddlers
Picture Books	2-8	300-800 words	Illustration-driven stories with minimal text
Easy Readers	5-9	1,000-2,500 words	Short chapters, simple vocabulary for new readers
Chapter Books	7-10	4,000-12,000 words	Longer stories with illustrations throughout
Middle Grade	8-12	20,000-50,000 words	Complex plots, character development
Activity Books	3-12	0-1,000 words	Coloring, puzzles, games, and learning



Did You Know? Picture books are the most printed format for first-time self-publishers. At PrintingCenterUSA, 8x8 saddle-stitch is our most popular children's book spec. Not sure what that means? Page 7 breaks it all down.

[TALK TO AN EXPERT](#)

[GET AN INSTANT QUOTE](#)

SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR BOOK

Understanding your publishing options and the path to getting your book into readers' hands



PRINT ON DEMAND VS. BULK PRINTING

Print on Demand prints books one at a time as orders come in. Upfront costs are low but the price per book is higher. It is a good way to test demand before committing to a larger run.

Bulk Printing means ordering a set quantity upfront. The more you print, the lower your cost per book. This is the better choice if you are selling at events, school visits, local bookstores, or launching with confidence.

Not sure which is right for you? Start with a small bulk run at PrintingCenterUSA. No minimums means you can order as few as 1 copy.

Self-publishing costs vary widely. If you write and illustrate yourself, costs can be near zero beyond printing. Hiring an illustrator is typically the biggest expense (\$500–\$3,000+).

	Print on Demand	Bulk Printing
Upfront Cost	Very low	Moderate
Per-Unit Cost	Higher	Much lower
Inventory	None needed	You store them
Quality Control	Varies	Consistent
Best For	Testing demand	Events, retail, gifts



Use this quick checklist to stay on track from initial idea to a finished book in your readers' hands.

1. Create: Write your story and pair it with vibrant illustrations.
2. Prepare: Secure your ISBN and finalize your professional layout.
3. Print: Choose between bulk or flexible print-on-demand services.
4. Launch: Build your author persona and start sharing your story.

[Read our In-Depth Guide](#)

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Building Character from the Start with Tiny Values

Discover how former Pixar lighting lead Angelique Reisch uses original stories and hands-on projects to teach children core values like kindness, gratitude, and resilience.

[WATCH NOW!](#)

Empowering Young Readers Through Representation

Discover how author Tequila Smith uses vibrant hardcover children's books to affirm every child's worth and ensure young readers see themselves reflected in the stories they love.

[READ NOW!](#)



Teaching Kindness Through Interactive Storytelling

Watch our podcast to learn how Karalyne Ley, CEO of Bene World Toys, uses printed storybooks and plush kits to teach children essential life skills like benevolence, respect, and emotional management.

[WATCH NOW!](#)



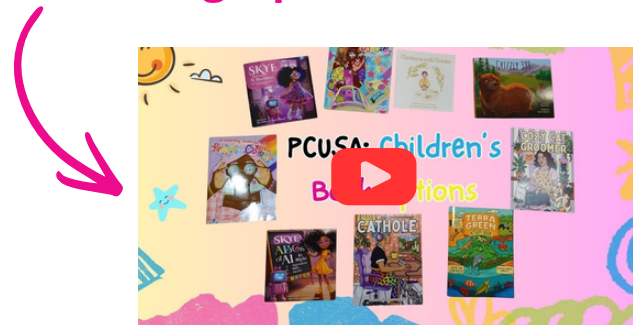
PRINTING OPTIONS

The right paper, size, and binding make your book look and feel professional. Here is how to choose.

PAPER OPTIONS

Children's books live or die on color. We recommend 100# Gloss Cover on the outside and 100# Gloss Text on the inside for the most vibrant illustrations. *Not sure what paper is right for your book? Order a [free sample packet](#) and feel the difference before you commit.*

Watch Our Children Book Printing Options



POPULAR SIZES

Pick the size that fits your book type. Most picture books go 8.5x8.5. Chapter books work well at 8.5x11 or the more compact 5.5x8.5. Not sure? Our team can help you decide before you order.



Binding	Pages	Best For
Saddle Stitch	8-92	Budget-friendly picture books
Perfect Bound	28-800	Chapter books, professional spine
Hardcover	30-400	Durable, library-quality, gift-worthy

Not sure what any of this feels like in your hands? Order a free sample packet and touch the paper, feel the binding, and see the color quality before you commit to your full print run.

ORDER FREE SAMPLE KIT

DESIGNING YOUR BOOK

You do not need to be a graphic designer to create a professional children's book. Here are three ways authors are doing it right now:

- **Hire an illustrator** - Costs typically range from \$500 to \$3,000 depending on style and page count.
- **Use AI illustration tools** - Midjourney, Adobe Firefly, and Canva AI are helping first-time authors create fully illustrated books in days instead of months. Write the story, describe the characters, and the AI generates the artwork.



FREE DESIGN TOOL

Don't have design software? Use our free online design tool! Upload photos, add text, choose layouts, no software required. Perfect for beginners!

[Start Designing](#)

FREE TEMPLATES

Download print-ready templates for Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop. Pre-sized with bleeds, margins, and guides!

[Download Templates](#)

NEED DESIGN HELP?

We have a list of recommended graphic designers to work with!

[Find a Designer](#)

Using AI art? One thing to know: AI images often export at 72 DPI by default. Print requires 300 DPI minimum. Run your files through an upscaling tool before you submit, or send them to us first and our team will flag anything that needs fixing.

FILE REQUIREMENTS

Format: Print-ready PDF

Color: CMYK (not RGB)

Resolution: 300 DPI minimum

Bleeds: 0.125" on all sides

Safety margin: Keep text 0.25" from edges

Fonts: Embedded or outlined

[Visit Help Center](#)

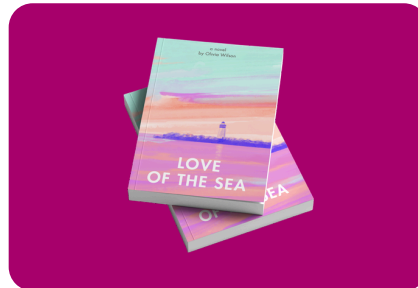
PRINT PRODUCTS THAT SUPPORT YOUR STORY

Most successful self-publishers do not stop at printing one product. Here is what they order alongside their book to sell more, reach more readers, and make a bigger impact.



BOOKLETS

Add an "About the Author" booklet to your order and give readers a reason to follow your next release. Great for school visits, signings, and classroom kits.



BOOKS

Start with one copy to hold in your hands. Scale up when you are ready to sell. No minimums means you can test before you commit to a full print run.



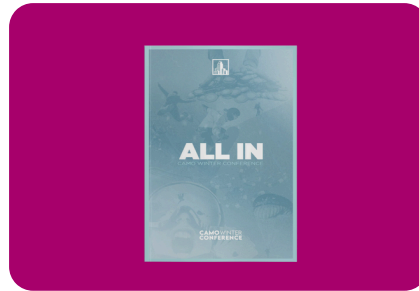
COLORING BOOKS

A coloring book version of your story doubles your product line without writing a single new word. Order alongside your main book and sell them as a set.



HARDCOVER BOOKS

Order a small run of hardcovers alongside your softcover edition. Use them for gift editions, library donations, or as a premium version you sell at a higher price point.



PERFECT BOUND BOOKS

Add a perfect bound edition to your order for a bookstore-quality spine. Ideal if you plan to sell through local shops or online retailers.



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Order them with your book run and have them ready before launch day. Hand them out at signings, tuck them into orders, or mail them directly to schools and libraries.

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Refer a new customer who places an order and **earn \$50 in printing credit** toward your program. Refer more and watch the credits add up! They also get 15% off their first order.

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QUOTE & ORDER

Select your size, paper, and quantity options on our instant pricing tool. Add to cart and checkout securely.



UPLOAD & REVIEW

Upload your print-ready PDF. Our experts perform a 43-point file inspection to catch any technical issues.



PROOF

Review your free electronic proof. Hard copy proofs are also available for final color and paper verification.



PRINT

Your order is printed and you can receive it in as fast as 3 to 4 days from proof approval

START YOUR ORDER NOW

*Turnaround time begins after proof approval. Shipping time is additional based on your location.



QUANTITY PRICING

The more you print, the more you save. Typical savings of 30-50% on larger quantities.



PRODUCTION TURNAROUND

- **Standard Production:** 3 Business Day
- **Rush Production:** 2 Business Days
- **Wait & Save Production:** 4-7 Business days



START WITH 1 BOOK

You can print a single copy to review quality, layout, and finish before committing to a larger run!

TRUSTED, RELIABLE BOOK PRINTING

Unparalleled customer experience is at the core of everything we do, backed by real reviews and real people!

We're rated 4.8/5

Read all 7,635 Verified Reviews [Here.](#)

Jeremy T.

"What an experience. I am so happy I went with this company. The prints look amazing, the customer service was top notch and it was SO EASY to put together. Thank you so much!"



Gary B.

"Incredible quality at a great price!"



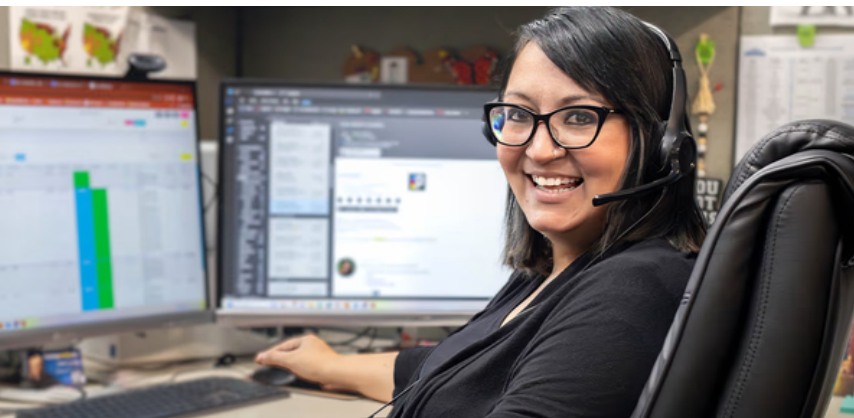
Scott M.

"I found it easy to use Printing Center's on-line process and tools. Uploads of book cover and print copy are straight forward and fast. Printing and shipping response times are good. Good status updates. High quality materials. I have done several subsequent reprints via Printing Center. Well satisfied."



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Your Children's Book Deserves the Best Print.

We are here to help you bring your book to life with the quality, care, and expertise your art deserves.

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