

## Finnoula's Book Writing Journey

Since age 3, Finn has been interested in making books. She learned to use the copier and stapler at an early age. In preschool, making books was a usual practice—some prescribed and many her own creations. When Finn was 5, she asked how books get into libraries and schools. Then she asked if one of her books could be in the library, so everyone could read it. Publisher Mom said “I don’t see why not” ...and so we started.

During the steps we took, Finn was always a very active participant. We tried to hold true to her ideas, with her publisher Mom advising. As a publisher of educational books, working on a trade book was a learning curve for Mom, too.

<b>Steps We Took</b>	<b>Ideas From Finn On Writing Your Own Book</b>
1. Pick the topic and format.	Choosing from many ideas is fun but don't use work by others—that would be against copyright laws.
2. Draw the pictures. Edit to choose the best ones.	Markers and a book about drawing animals got me started. Ideas can come from anywhere!
3. Write the words.	Since I haven't learned to read and write yet, I told Mom and Dad what to write. Have them read it back to you to check it!
4. Mock it up.	I used tape, markers, and sticky notes, and then later Mom put it on the computer.
5. Change the words.	Mom was the editor so she made a few changes. I approved all of the changes.
6. Send to the designer.	A designer makes it look nice. My designer, Miss Jen, is great.
7. Review and revise layouts.	I did not like the first few layouts at all. The designer is very patient and made something I liked in the end.
8. Design some covers and a logo.	We learned about logos. Now, I'm always looking for logos on things.
9. Pick the cover.	We all voted on the options but I had final say. I also learned about pen names, which is like a secret name. I chose Finnoula Louise.
10. Show the book to other people and get feedback.	I got some new ideas from family and friends but I didn't like them all. We only did what I liked.
11. Revise again.	More tape, markers, and sticky notes. This time my little sister was making her own book next to me.
12. Proofread and finalize the book.	Mom hired an editor friend. She corrected some mistakes but it's still my ideas!
13. Send to printer.	Mom has lots to learn about overseas printing. I found China on a map.
14. Approve and wait!	It takes a long time to get the books printed. I couldn't wait to get them into the library!
15. Promotion and Marketing	Meeting bookstore owners, librarians, and other kids is fun!