

Introduction

Writing and illustrating for children has been prepared to enable new and established writers and artists to send their material to appropriate publishers with the minimum of uncertainty as to what is required and by whom; in the hope that publishers will receive fewer contributions that do not meet their stated requirements, saving everyone unnecessary frustration and delays.

Publishers were sent a questionnaire and their responses are detailed on the following pages. Some publishers also sent more detailed guidelines and these are reproduced as they were received.

Several aspects of presenting material to publishers are held in common. These are summarized below. More details on these aspects, as well as other helpful information, will be found in many good published guides, available from libraries and bookshops.

General guidelines

Scripts should:

- Be typed on one side of A4 paper
- Be double spaced
- Have good margins on either side of the page
- Be numbered consecutively
- Include name and address
- Include a simple, straightforward covering letter including a writing/illustrating CV
- Be sent with a stamped, self-addressed envelope of suitable size for their return

The following general comments have been made by publishers in past years.

Suggest aspiring authors make a point of becoming conversant with successful contemporary New Zealand and overseas' titles in the particular area, or for the age group, that they wish to write for. To be successful you need to be original and humorous; be aware of contemporary preferences, preoccupations and speech styles; be sensitive to issues of gender, race and [ability]; write simply but effectively; treat young readers with respect.