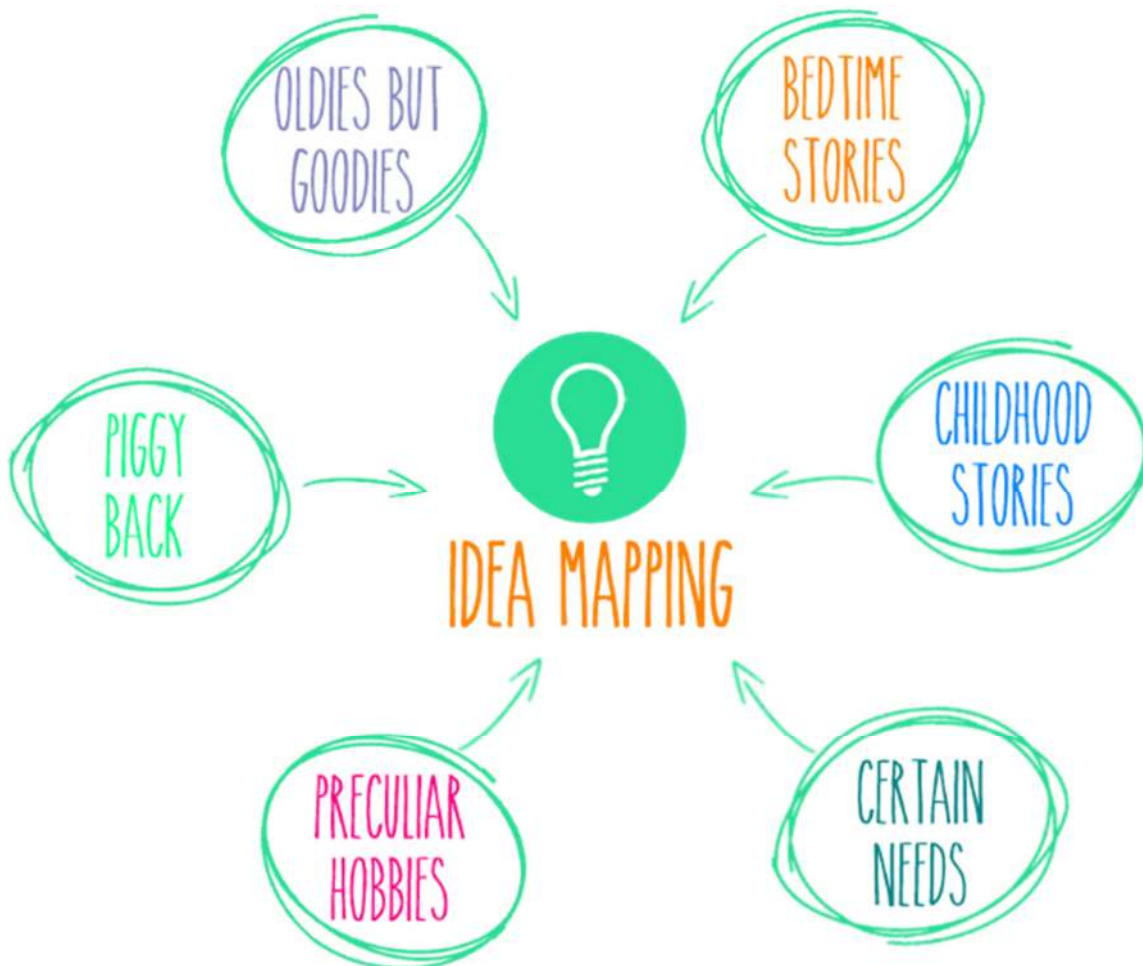


It's pretty likely that you already have an idea for your children's book in mind. Maybe the entire story is already laid out in your head. Maybe you thought of a character during those long nights you were trying to get your child to sleep. Or maybe you remember stories that have been told to you during your childhood; stories that you now wish to breathe new life into. But if you don't have an idea for your story yet, don't worry.

I have come up with a list of 5 fun ways we can get your creative juices flowing. I found these ways extremely helpful when I was trying to come up with ideas for my own children's books.

IDEA MAPPING:



HOW TO DISCOVER IDEAS WITHIN YOU:

1. **BEDTIME STORIES:** Did you make up stories for your children that you told them at bedtime? These are sometimes the most beloved characters and are treasured by both you and your child. Winnie-the-Pooh, for example, was created as a set of bedtime stories Christopher Robin Milne's father based on some of his son's toys – a chubby bear, a donkey, a tiger, a kangaroo, and a piglet.
2. **CHILDHOOD STORIES:** The way things used to be... With the rise of technology, things change at a much quicker pace. Are your little ones curious about your childhood? I know mine were. They kept asking me about my growing up in former East Germany, until finally, I decided to simply write down all my most precious childhood memories. It was so popular among family and friends, that I published it, and "[Growing Up In East Germany](#)" was born.
3. **CERTAIN NEEDS:** Did a circumstance necessitate you to make up a story? When my back then 2-year old was having difficulties transitioning from his potty chair to toilet (he was already potty trained), I sought out help in the form of a book. As no other book was available on this particular problem, I decided to write and illustrate my own, and "[Teeny Totty Uses Mama's Big Potty](#)" was born.
4. **PECULIAR HOBBIES:** Does your kid have a hobby that you can't find a book about? Or does your little one go totally gaga about a certain thing, but you are unable to find an interesting book on it? Then use this as an opportunity and write your own. Chances are, there are many other kids out there that are obsessed with the exact same thing. My youngest was absolutely crazy about lawn mowers, for example. I didn't like the selection I saw on Amazon and wrote my own, "[The Little Mower That Could.](#)"
5. **PIGGYBACK:** What animals/ topics/ toys are big right now? Of course you can't just copy characters directly due to copyright infringements, but you can create similar ones. Let's say Disney just released a new movie about dinosaurs. Chances are you'll see a lot of little die-hard dinosaur fans walk around right after the movie first screened. You can piggyback on that opportunity and create your very own dinosaur story. In fact, that is what I did after the movie Monster Trucks was first released in 2016. I wrote and illustrated "[Lil Foot The Monster Truck.](#)"

👉 I have prepared an **IDEA SHEET** that you can use to jot down all of your ideas you come up with during your brainstorming session. Write down anything that comes to mind. Even if you think it's really silly, write it down.

Exercise Instructions

Go to a quiet place. Shut off your phone, close email and eliminate all distractions.

LIST ALL THE TOPICS / THEMES YOU ARE CONSIDERING.

Write down anything that comes to mind. Even if you think it's really silly, write it down.

1. BEDTIME STORIES:

2. CHILDHOOD STORIES:

3. CERTAIN NEEDS:

4. PECULIAR HOBBIES:

5. PIGGYBACK:

6. OTHER:
