

# Top 10 Questions Children's Book Writers Have About Hiring Voice Actors

## 1. Why should I hire a professional voice actor for my children's book?

Hiring a professional voice actor for your children's book ensures high-quality narration, engages young listeners, and brings the characters to life with expert storytelling and versatile voices.

## 2. What qualities should I look for in a voice actor for a children's book narration?

Look for a narrator with a strong storytelling ability, warmth, and versatility, especially in character driven work. You will want someone with experience in children's books or animated content such as a podcast, is a plus, as it shows they understand how to engage younger audiences. Most importantly, can they express emotion and distinguish characters clearly? A professionally recorded sample or demo is key to evaluate their tone, pacing, and performance quality.

## 3. How does the narration process work for children's books?

**Initial consultation:** Discuss the project details including the book's theme, characters, and desired tone.

**Script Review:** The book's manuscript is reviewed, noting any specific directions such as age, pronunciations, or character voices

**Sample Audition:** A short sample of narration can be provided to make sure the voice and style match the author's vision and character(s)

**Recording:** The full narration is recorded ensuring high-quality audio and professional studio quality.

**Editing:** The recording is edited to remove any errors, adjust pacing, and add sound effects or music if needed.

**Final Review & Delivery:** The final version is shared with the author for approval. The completed audio file is delivered either in mp3 or wav format depending on what is agreed upon.

## 4. How can I prepare my book for narration?

**Format Clearly:** Ensure the text is easy to read aloud, a word doc is preferable

**Guide Pronunciations:** Clarify names, foreign words, or made-up terms.

**Describe Characters:** Specify any notes on voice, age, or personality.

**Highlight Emotions:** Identify key emotional moments. Highlighting the text with a marker is helpful

**Clarify Tone:** Communicate the intended mood and style.

**Share Background:** Provide context about the story, pictures, setting, or characters.

## 5. How much does it typically cost to hire a voice actor for a children's book?

Rates typically range from **\$200 to \$500 per finished hour** of narration. The total cost can vary based on the book's length, and any additional services required, such as editing, sound effects, language preference and the voice actors experience.

## **6. What are the common mistakes to avoid when hiring a voice actor?**

**Not Listening to Demos:** Always review samples of their work.

**Ignoring Experience:** Experience is important, look for actors with relevant work in children's book narration, in character work such as podcasting, audio drama or animation.

**Unclear Instructions:** Provide detailed guidelines and expectations.

**Skipping Auditions:** Request custom auditions to ensure a good fit.

**Rushing the Process:** Allow enough time for a quality performance and revisions.

## **7. How can I evaluate a voice actor's suitability for my book?**

**Listen to Demos:** Review their previous work in children's book narration or character work.

**Request a Custom Audition:** Hear how they interpret a passage from your book.

**Assess Versatility:** Can they voice multiple characters or emotional moments convincingly?

**Check References and Reviews:** Look at feedback from previous clients. For voice actors with no references request a short audition or a free sample narration from the book to give authors a sense of their capabilities.

## **8. What is the turnaround time for narrating a children's book?**

Turnaround times is generally from **1 to 3 weeks**, depending on the length and complexity of the book, the narrator's availability, and any editing needs. Shorter books or simpler projects may be completed in a few days, while longer or multi-character stories may take a bit more time.

## **9. Can the narration be done in multiple languages and what are the benefits?**

**Language Ability-** Ask if they can narrate in more than one language

**Wider Audience Reach:** Makes your book accessible to more families.

**Cultural Inclusivity:** Promotes diversity and inclusion.

**Educational Value:** Helps children learn new languages.

**Enhanced Marketability:** Increases appeal in international markets.

**Accessibility:** Reaches children with varying linguistic needs.

## **10. What are some tips for promoting my children's book with its new narration?**

**Create Engaging Audio Samples:** And share the clips or shorts on social media.

**Use QR Codes:** Link your print book to audio samples.

**Feature on Your Website:** Embed audio players or demo videos.

**Collaborate with Influencers:** Partner with children's book bloggers and influencers.

**Host a Listen Party:** Conduct live or recorded readings with the narration either in person or on Zoom.