

# Free Spirit Publishing®

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Free Spirit is the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social-emotional health and their educational needs. We help children and teens think for themselves, overcome challenges, and make a difference in the world.

We care about young people and the issues and challenges they face every day. Our line of materials includes early childhood books on social skills and positive behavior, Self-Help for Kids®, Self-Help for Teens®, parenting resources, and teaching resources for educators. Our titles inform, engage, and inspire children, teens, and the adults who live and work with them.

### Determining Whether Your Work Is a Fit for Our List

If you are interested in working with Free Spirit, it is best to start by familiarizing yourself with our books. You may request a copy of our catalog or review our titles online at [www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com). We also recommend that you check out our books at your local library or bookstore to get a feel for our tone and style.

### WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:

- General fiction or storybooks
- Books with animals or mythical characters
- Poetry
- Material with religious or New Age content
- Single biographies, autobiographies, or memoirs
- Self-help for adults

If your proposal is in any of the above formats, it is not right for us—even if content themes overlap with those we publish.

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR STRONG NONFICTION PROPOSALS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

**TEACHING STRATEGIES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Practical, jargon-free materials for educators, administrators, counselors, and youth workers that focus on positive youth development, creative teaching strategies, leadership, early

childhood development, and a wide range of social and emotional needs.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD:** Board books for infant to age 4, picture books for ages 4 to 8, and educator resources that focus on social skills and getting along, early learning, character education, self-esteem, and other topics related to positive early childhood development. We will also consider fiction that relates directly to these areas of focus.

**GIFTED & SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Books on academic, social, and emotional development for young people with diverse learning needs of all ages, including gifted students and students with learning differences, ADHD, behavioral difficulties, or autism spectrum disorders. We also seek resources for educators, counselors, parents, and other adults that support children's diverse learning and social-emotional needs.

**BULLYING PREVENTION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** Picture books, Self-Help for Kids®, Self-Help for Teens®, and resources for teachers, counselors, and other educators to help young people understand, prevent, and respond to bullying incidents. We will also consider fiction for kids and teens that relates to these topics.

**CHARACTER EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & SERVICE LEARNING:** Picture books, Self-Help for Kids®, Self-Help for Teens®, and resources for teachers, counselors, and other educators to help young people build character, discover their leadership potential, and engage in their communities. We will also consider fiction for kids and teens that relates to these topics.

**EDUCATIONAL GAMES, POSTERS, & JARS:** Games and In a Jar® products for kids and teens that promote character development, bullying prevention, positive behavior, social-emotional learning, and other related topics. We are not currently accepting proposals for posters.

**COUNSELING & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING:** Picture books, Self-Help for Kids®, Self-Help for Teens®, and educator resources to help children and teens deal with grief and loss, health and wellness, depression and other mental illnesses, stress, social skills and friendship, anger management, GLBTQ issues, manners, family, self-confidence, and more. We will also consider fiction for kids and teens that relates to these topics.

**Note:** Due to the large volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to respond to individual queries. Please review the previous categories carefully. If you think your work may be a fit for *Free Spirit*, you may submit a proposal according to our guidelines.

## Submitting a Proposal

Proposals must be sent by mail. We do not accept faxed or emailed submissions. Only proposals with the following elements will be considered for publication:

- A cover letter briefly outlining your project, the intended audience (including age ranges), and your relevant expertise
- A current résumé
- A market analysis with a comprehensive list of similar titles and a detailed explanation of how your project differs from available products
- A detailed chapter-by-chapter outline
- At least two sample chapters (if a full manuscript is available, you may send it)

**Note:** For early childhood picture book submissions, the entire text is required for evaluation. Bracketed art suggestions are appreciated, though illustration samples should not be sent unless professionally competent.

- A description of your personal promotion plan for the proposed book (including both in-person and social media outreach)
- If applicable, a listing of federal preK–12 educational funding initiatives or grant opportunities for which your proposed book would qualify

DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS. Include an email address where we can reach you. For return of your materials, include a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

## SEND PROPOSALS TO:

Free Spirit Publishing  
Attn: Acquisitions  
6325 Sandburg Road, Suite 100  
Golden Valley, MN 55427-3674

## When Will You Hear From Us?

While we do our best to offer timely feedback on your project, the high volume of proposals we receive dictates a reply time of two to six months.

## The Benefits of Working with Free Spirit

- You can expect a high level of personal attention from our editors and our promotions and sales departments.
- Our strong backlist ensures that your book will have a long life in print.
- Our books have been translated into more than 20 languages.

## PRAISE FOR FREE SPIRIT PUBLISHING

“Free Spirit does a particularly good job providing materials for those who want to promote social, emotional, and character development . . . they are concerned about the research supporting what they are doing. They use peer review to ensure that what is being provided to consumers represents the best available knowledge, leavened with format and delivery systems that are likely to be used and enjoyed.”  
—*Maurice Elias, Edutopia blogger, and director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab at Rutgers University*

“Do you know Free Spirit Publishing? If you don’t, you should.”  
—*International Reading Association*

“Free Spirit Soars in Self-Help Genre”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

“Sensible, intelligent, and often fun, Free Spirit is soaring, thanks to a woman who is both practical and visionary, one who has clearly earned her wings.”  
—*Networking Alternatives for Publishers, Retailers, and Artists (NAPRA) Review*

“Once again Free Spirit is on the leading edge of trends in education and topical issues.”  
—*Center for Effective Parenting*

Free Spirit books have been reviewed by *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Publishers Weekly*, and featured on CNN and in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Family Circle*, *Parents*, and *Scholastic Parent & Child*. Awards include the AEP Distinguished Achievement Award, Benjamin Franklin Book Award, *ForeWord Reviews* Book of the Year, *Learning Magazine’s* “Teachers’ Choice,” Midwest Book Award, Nautilus Award, Parents’ Choice, American Library Association’s “Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers” and “Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults,” VOYA Nonfiction Honor List, *Parent Magazine’s* “Book of the Year,” Dr. Toy’s “100 Best,” and many more. Publisher Judy Galbraith has been honored as Publisher of the Year by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association.

Founded in 1983 by author and educator Judy Galbraith, Free Spirit was the first publisher to offer self-help materials for young people. Today we continue to be the leader in providing positive, practical, solution-based learning tools that support the social, emotional, and educational development of young people at home, at school, and in their communities.

free spirit  
PUBLISHING®

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