

RUTH SPIRO

Children's Book Author

Ruth is pleased to offer the following programs for conferences, school assemblies, festivals and other events. Her interests include creativity, growing ideas into stories, and the many benefits of introducing STEM subjects and makerspace activities to even the littlest learners. Ruth believes success comes from a willingness to explore the unfamiliar, take risks, and view mistakes as learning experiences. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for writing, and hopes to inspire both children and adults to pursue their own creative passions.



Presentation Topics for Conferences, Schools & Festivals

STEM and Storytelling - Parallel Plot Lines

Many of the skills critical to growing strong readers are also foundational skills in STEM. Children's picture books provide an ideal opportunity for exploring this connection. Using STEM-themed picture books, we'll examine the elements of a story and discuss how they connect to STEM. Examples include sequencing, cause and effect, and making predictions. *(Best for educators)*

Making Makers: A Guide to Making Cool Stuff (and Great Memories!) with Your Kids

The exciting thing about Making and Tinkering is that it's perfectly fine to start "where you are." Projects can be high-tech, low-tech, or even no-tech. In fact, creating projects using items repurposed from the recycling bin is both economical and environmentally friendly. Ready to give it a try? Ruth will discuss the educational benefits of Making and Tinkering, and share resources for finding the perfect projects for your family or classroom.

Surprising STEM

Did you know you can plan STEM activities without robots, circuits or 3-D printers? Yes, you can! In fact, focusing on the mindset behind STEM, rather than the bells and whistles, will result in a more organic and meaningful experience for all. Ruth will share some ideas for STEM activities using books and material you may already have on hand. (Including items from the recycling bin!) *(Best for educators, libraries or parents)*

Creating Picture Books - From Idea... to First Draft... to FINISHED!

Ruth's wide range of publishing experience uniquely qualifies her to discuss all aspects of the writing process. She'll discuss where ideas come from, how to create compelling characters, story structure and more. Best of all, her insider secrets and pain-free revision techniques will inspire writers of all ages to polish their story until it shines! This topic may be extended with an optional writing workshop. *(Perfect for schools or adult writers)*

Just for Kids

Writing in the Real World

While reading the back of the cereal box at breakfast, do you think about the writer whose job it was to craft that text? Probably not! Ruth is a former advertising producer and freelance writer who once wrote toy reviews for FamilyFun magazine. In this presentation she'll discuss the many "jobs" a writer can do and will share ideas for using real-world writing to inspire surprising classroom activities. If desired, she'll also share tips for getting started in writing for publication. *(Ruth's most popular school visit topic, may be tailored to educators or adult writers)*

Ruth Spiro's Smartypants Celebration

In watching a bird fly, floating boats in the bathtub, or even dropping crackers from the table, young children are experimenting with gravity and physics. The *Baby Loves Science* books encourage a natural sense of wonder, while introducing toddlers to basic concepts and vocabulary. We'll soar, sing, and flap our wings at this unique story time, where observation, imagination and participation are encouraged. Parents and caregivers might learn a thing or two as well! (*Ideal for festivals, bookstores, libraries, and preschools.*)

Maxine's "Maker Challenge"

A fun and interactive exploration of Design Thinking based on Ruth's picture book *Made by Maxine*.

About Ruth

Ruth never imagined she'd be a writer... until she tried it! Now she writes innovative books for children on the topics of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). She hopes her books inspire kids to observe their world, ask questions, and when it comes to their futures, DREAM BIG.

Ruth's popular **Baby Loves Science** board books encourage a natural sense of wonder, while introducing toddlers to basic concepts and vocabulary. The series includes *Baby Loves Aerospace Engineering*, *Baby Loves Coding*, *Baby Loves Green Energy*, *Baby Loves Structural Engineering*, and *Baby Loves the Five Senses*. The books have received praise from The Los Angeles Times, Popular Science, The Planetary Society, Working Mother and NPR. *Baby Loves Science* is illustrated by Irene Chan.

Her new picture book series, **Made by Maxine**, is about an inspiring young "maker" who knows that with enough effort, imagination, and recyclables, it's possible to invent anything. *Made by Maxine* is illustrated by Holly Hatam.

Ruth's debut picture book, *Lester Fizz, Bubble-Gum Artist* won awards from Writer's Digest and Willamette Writers, and was a Bank Street College of Education Best Book. Her articles and essays have appeared in FamilyFun, CHILD, and The Writer, and also in many anthologies, notably *The Right Words at the Right Time*, edited by Marlo Thomas, and several *Chicken Soup for the Soul* titles.

Previous appearances include:

World Science Festival (NY)

Early Childhood STEM Conference (CalTech)

Chicago Tribune Printer's Row LitFest

Museum of Science & Industry (Chicago)

Virginia Festival of the Book

Toddler Tuesday-Mall of America (MN)

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

National Assn. for the Ed. of Young Children (NAEYC)

Barnes & Noble Mini Maker Faire

AIR ZOO Air & Space Museum

Michigan Area Computer Users in Learning (MACUL)

Children's Festival of Stories (Denver)

For bookings or media interviews contact: ruthbspiro@gmail.com

