

Thank you so much for considering me. I am very flattered. But I am currently working on a picture book with a publisher. And unfortunately, I only work with publishers. Let me tell you why:

If you're thinking of self-publishing your book(s), then you have a major task ahead of you. Typically, children's book illustrators work for publishers who already have a manuscript under contract. And the publisher/editor typically selects the illustrator, not the author (unless you're a well-known and well-published author such as Jane Yolen or Eve Bunting) after the book is under contract.

Illustrators are paid for the illustrations with an "advance" (just as the author is) against the future potential royalties that a book might earn. It is very expensive to self-publish a picture book - picture books can cost an estimated \$20,000+ to publish. I normally receive a very respectable advance payment for picture books and then receive royalties once the royalties are earned back (royalties are paid for the life of the book). I also keep the artwork. This is typical operating procedure in the industry. This among other things, is what usually deters my participation in private projects. A single person often doesn't have deep enough pockets and usually cannot market the book the way a publisher can. When you self-publish a book, you in effect cease to be a writer and become a full-time "publisher" (including assuming responsibility for all cost, time, talent, etc. associated with printing, marketing, advertising, distributing, promotions, PR, etc.) so that you can recoup your sizeable investment . . . before any profits are made. Selling your work when you're competing against the "big boys" is difficult under the best of circumstances.

I would suggest trying the usual venues of mainstream children's publishing. Submit your work to well-known and respected publishers. If it's great work, you have a lot of luck and it fills a market need, it will be published - but it takes perseverance as well as continuously working to develop and hone your craft (writing). There are a number of excellent sources of information on children's publishing:

. **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators:** an excellent source for a wealth of information specifically on the children's literature market - with 19,000+ members, this is the largest writer's organization in the world and there are chapters all over the world <http://www.scbwi.org>

. **The Purple Crayon:** another excellent source of information  
<http://www.underdown.org/index.html>

. ***Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market:*** a must-have book, published annually listing all of the markets that focus on children's publishing.

All the best!