

Parent Newspaper Guide



**Newspaper
Association
of America**



Foundation™

Message to Parents

You are your child's first and most important teacher. You play a vital role in developing your child's attitude about learning and success in reading and thinking skills.

Children learn best when parents are interested and involved in their education. Many parents have found that

looking through and reading the newspaper is an easy, enjoyable way to read, talk and think together with their children.

Seeing a parent read the newspaper every day motivates a child to want to do the same – read and learn.

The newspaper is both an inexpensive and rich source of information you can share with your child.



The suggestions in this booklet will show you how to use the newspaper to:

- ◆ Share a special time with your child.
- ◆ Learn more about your child's interests and views about the world.
- ◆ Encourage and build an appreciation for reading and learning.
- ◆ Reinforce what's being taught in school.
- ◆ Develop and practice "comfortable" conversations.
- ◆ Learn about shared interests.

This guide is divided into five categories:

- ◆ The Sunday Newspaper
- ◆ Helpful Newspaper Hints
- ◆ Online Help
- ◆ Newspaper Activities
- ◆ Glossary of Newspaper Jargon

The Sunday Newspaper

Parents can have a strong, positive influence on their child's education. Research shows that parents who enjoy reading with a child for even a few minutes a day can make a measurable difference in the acquisition of basic reading skills, and that everyday activities – such as reading the newspaper or a trip to the grocery store – can be turned into a valuable learning experience.

The Sunday newspaper provides something of interest for everyone. We encourage you to explore the newspaper with your child. Discover all the intriguing and valuable news and features within the different sections of the newspaper.

◆ <i>Main News</i> National news International news Extended index	◆ <i>Business</i> Stock listings
◆ <i>State/Local</i> Metro news State news Weather	◆ <i>Lifestyles</i> Puzzles Games Advice columns Horoscopes
◆ <i>Sports</i>	◆ <i>Travel</i>
◆ <i>Opinion</i> Editorials Columns Letters to the editor	◆ <i>USA Weekend magazine</i>
◆ <i>Arts & Entertainment</i>	◆ <i>Coupons</i>
◆ <i>Classifieds</i> Jobs Automotive Real Estate	◆ <i>Advertisements</i>
	◆ <i>TV</i>
	◆ <i>Parade magazine</i>
	◆ <i>Comics</i>

Helpful Newspaper Hints

Newspapers are great for kids of all ages. Even young children enjoy photographs and comics. Early readers can read the large print in headlines and ads. Special time alone together will go a long way to promote positive attitudes toward learning.

◆ Don't overlook any part of the newspaper as a starting point for a conversation with your adolescent. Sports, comics, classified ads, "advice columns – as well as news items – can present interesting topics.

◆ The activities in this brochure will help you talk, read and think with your child. Pick a few activities from each category. Some days a child may be more interested in reading, while on other days a "talk together" activity might be more fun.

◆ Consider your child's interests when selecting articles for discussion. At the same time, learn more about his or her interests from the articles that he or she enjoys reading and discussing.

◆ Your understanding of your child's interests will help you select activities that will be appealing to your child.

◆ Remember that reading the newspaper together can help build the habit of daily reading. Try to read aloud to young children every day. Ask grandparents, neighbors or older brothers and sisters to help. Ask the child to read to you, too.

◆ Read aloud some of the shorter articles and have your child do the same, but don't stop at the end of the article. Make it part of a regular routine to talk about what you have read; exchange ideas and opinions about what's been read.

◆ Anytime you can find the time to talk with your children will help develop communication skills. You don't have to have the newspaper in your hands to discuss what you and your child have read. Talk about what you've read during meals, in the car and when completing family chores together.

◆ You may want to scale down the newspaper with young children. Do this by using only one section at a time.

◆ Establish a comfortable place for your newspaper activities. Point out parts of the newspaper that may be of special interest to your child.

◆ Many families have an "art gallery" on the refrigerator door to show off the results of the child's efforts. You can also share projects with grandparents, friends or neighbors.

◆ Use short, frequent periods for the activities, rather than occasional, extended periods. If your child shows little interest, try again another day.



Online Help

Many newspapers provide support to parents through their Newspaper In Education (NIE) departments. Check your newspaper's Web site for links to NIE.

If you cannot access the Internet from home, you can use computers at the public library nearest you.

Resources that you might find on an NIE Web site include:

- ◆ Web site links and newspaper activities for current news stories
- ◆ Current events quizzes
- ◆ USA Weekend and Parade Magazine lessons for older students
- ◆ Newspaper-based literacy activities for children and parents (organized by age level)
- ◆ Web site links to serialized stories appearing in your local newspaper
- ◆ Archived news stories of particular interest to parents of children of all ages
- ◆ A database with newspaper lessons that you can use to work on a particular skill with your child

Your newspaper's NIE site also may have a section just for students. Resources that might appear there include:

- ◆ Links to your newspaper's youth sections, where there are stories written by students, for students
- ◆ Student reviews of books, games, movies, videos, music and toys
- ◆ A place where your child can respond in writing with an opinion on a current event or hot topic
- ◆ Jokes, games, art and other fun things to do and see
- ◆ Listings of kid-friendly events in your area
- ◆ Contests – rules and how to enter contests for kids of all ages



Newspaper Activities

1. Play a game with the index section of the newspaper. Read it with your child, or have the child read it to you. Have your child locate each section as you call out the page numbers. How are newspaper page numbers different than those in textbooks?

2. Walk your child through the entire newspaper. Discuss what kind of information can be found in the different sections.

3. After reading news stories, have your child tell you the Five Ws and the H (see glossary).

4. See if your family can predict the content of a newspaper story by only reading the headline.

5. Find news articles, pictures and advertisements in the newspaper that you think would tell about life today. Imagine that you and your child are responsible for preparing a scrapbook that you will give to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Include things that you have in your own home – or that are common in people's homes today.

6. Ask your child to look for the "jumps" or continuations of the stories on the newspaper's front page. Have the child match the identifying subtitles and page numbers. Make it a game to see how quickly your child is able to locate these continuations.

7. Find a newspaper picture that interests both of you. Tell your

child, in story form, about what happened in the picture. Stop occasionally and ask, "Then what do you think happened?" Ask your child to make up a different story. Or talk about what might have happened before or after the picture was taken.

8. Look for a picture of a person your child would recognize (the president, a famous athlete, a rock star, a police officer, a firefighter, etc). Talk together about what these people do. You might ask:



"Why is this person's picture in the newspaper?"

9. Ask your child to choose a picture of a famous athlete, movie star, politician or other person he or she would like to meet. Ask, "What would you say to this person? What do you think the person would say to you?" Discuss what makes people interesting and why they become famous.

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Newspaper Activities

10. Find a picture about some natural phenomenon such as a storm, earthquake or a volcanic eruption, and have your child write a paragraph explaining where such a thing is apt to occur and what causes this event to happen.
11. Ask your child to look through the newspaper for pictures or stories about people from different cultures or ethnic backgrounds. Compare your customs with theirs. Talk about customs of other ethnic groups your family might enjoy.
12. Look for pictures that show people's facial expressions and emotions. Look at photos and advertisements. Ask your child how each person feels. Then ask questions like, "What makes you happy? What makes you sad?" Ask, "Why does this picture make you feel that way?"
13. Read the newspaper's weather forecast. Look for pictures that illustrate different weather conditions. Look at the forecast for tomorrow and help your child select appropriate clothes to wear. Or use the weather map to learn more about weather in other places. For example, "What is the weather like where Grandpa lives?"
14. Find a story or picture of a group of people who need help (for example, victims of a fire or flood, the homeless, people in a hospital). Discuss reactions to these people and their situations. Talk about ways your family might help by spending time, sharing talents or even contributing money.
15. Read an article with your child about a person who has broken the law. "What has the person done?" "What might happen to the person?" "Is the law a good one?" "What could this person have done differently?"
16. Read newspaper coverage of a major news story and watch the same story presented on television. Talk about the differences between reading newspapers and watching television news.
17. Cut out some favorite comics. Cut the captions off and ask your child to tell you a story about the pictures. Ask questions like, "Did something like that ever happen to you?" and "What do you think happens next?" Or cut the comic strip into individual pictures and ask your child to put them in order, showing what happened first, second and third.
18. Look through the comics and have your child choose a favorite character. Ask, "How are you like this character? How are you different?"
19. Read the TV listings together. Help your child choose a program for the whole family to watch. Ask, "Why did you choose this program? What show would you choose to watch by yourself?" Look for ads about upcoming programs. Ask, "What do you think that show will

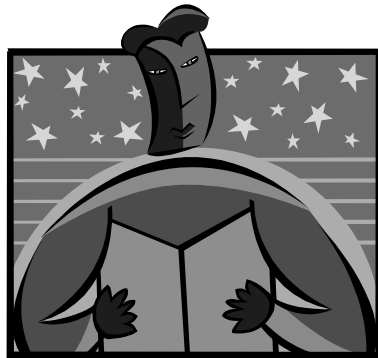
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Newspaper Activities

be about? Do you think it will be fun to watch?”

20. Read a review of an entertainment event or a report of a sports event that your family attended or viewed. Are the reviewer's or the sports reporter's impressions the same as yours? How do they differ? Why might they differ?

21. If you can find a recipe in the newspaper, prepare it together. Ask your child to help you read the directions. Then serve it to family or friends.



22. Look through your newspaper for a review of a movie that would interest your child. Read and discuss it together. Ask, “Does this sound like a movie you would enjoy?” “Why do you think you would like it?” “Have you seen any other movies or television shows or read any books that sound similar?”

23. Read and discuss reviews of movies or other family entertainment offered in your area.

Exchange ideas on what would be good to see and why. Ask your son or daughter about television shows and books that seem similar.

24. Read and compare news stories, editorials or newspaper columns that express different points of view about international, national or local issues. Find out if your child supports one of these views, if he or she feels strongly about it, and why.

25. Select an editorial that treats a problem that may have some effect on your family. Determine the opinion of the newspaper on the problem. Discuss the opinions of members of the family on the issue. Do you and your child agree with the editorial writer?

26. Have your child cut out coupons from the newspaper. Ask the child to sort the coupons into categories – cleaning products, snacks, breakfast cereals and so on. Or, the child might sort the coupons according to size, color, value – or whether the child likes the products mentioned. As you make out your shopping list, have your child select the coupons you will need.

27. Have your child choose an object pictured in the newspaper and describe it to you. See if you can correctly identify it based on your child's description. Switch roles and repeat.

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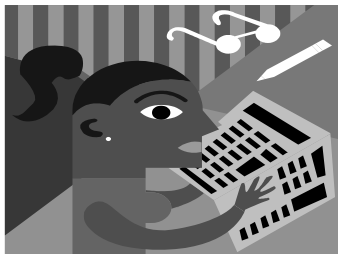
Newspaper Activities

28. Pretend your child has money to spend at the grocery store. Have your child look at advertisements and cut out prices for different foods: meats, fruits, vegetables and breads. Help your child find at least two items in each group that your family might enjoy. Together, total your "purchases." How much money did you "spend"?

29. Go through the advertisements in the newspaper with your child, identifying slogans, pictures or key words that attract attention and influence decisions to buy. Ask, "Are any of the products advertised ones that we use at home?" "Are there any that you think we should try?" "Why or why not?"

30. Look through the classified employment section with your child. Find jobs held by family, friends and neighbors: teacher, secretary, construction worker, messenger, driver. Read and talk about the kind of duties these positions require. Ask your child to find a few positions he/she would enjoy. Ask why.

31. Look through the classified employment section together and discuss possible jobs your adolescent might consider in a few years.



Look at the good and bad points of each job. What are the working conditions? Talk about jobs and careers that interest your son or daughter and what steps will have to be taken to get one of those jobs.

32. Ask your son or daughter to think about renting an apartment when old enough to live away from home. Check rental listings in the classifieds. What will it take to make ends meet?

On Their Own

Here are some activities children can try on their own. (Note: Activities one through seven are for younger children; eight through 16 are for older children.)

1. Have your child cut out pictures of faces, clothing, hands and feet and then arrange them to create funny people.
2. Have your children cut out letters from the newspaper to spell his or her name. Then paste the name on a sign or poster to display. Your child might also try to spell the names of other people in the family, perhaps making a placemat for each.
3. Challenge your child to look through the food ads to find products that could be combined into a new and unusual sandwich. (Or suggest coming up with a new horrible-tasting sandwich!)

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On Their Own



4. Have your child choose a picture from the newspaper. Your child might draw a picture of what happened just before the photograph was taken and another of what happened after.

5. Check the entertainment ads for movies or concerts. Choose a place you would like to go as a family. Ask your child to figure out the cost of having all family members attend.

6. Have your child create a scrapbook of stories, pictures, ads or comics that are of interest.

7. Ask your child to write a letter to a family member or a friend who lives in another city. Suggest including local news and events from the newspaper.

8. Find pictures in the newspaper of two people your child would want to know more about. What good or bad actions have caused them to be in the news? List each person's good qualities/actions and bad qualities/actions.

9. Find words and pictures in the newspaper that best describe your child. Can he or she find a picture or description of anyone in the newspaper who shares some of his or her interests? Do this for other members of the family.

10. Look through the ads to find coupons and bargain prices. Compare the prices for these items at two stores. How much money can be saved by comparison-shopping?

11. Have your child choose characters from the Sunday comic strips that would make up your family. Create a comic strip using these characters.

12. Encourage your child to create a scrapbook of stories, pictures, comics and ads that appear in the newspaper on important days in life – birthday, holidays, graduation, etc.

13. Ask your child to look through the Travel section to identify places he or she would like to visit. Then have him or her find ads for airlines, hotels, clothes and other items that might be needed at these locations.

14. Find a column in the newspaper that your child enjoys reading. If he or she could work as a columnist, what topics would he or she write about? Ask your child to write a sample column to share with the family.

15. Find an issue in the newspaper that your child feels strongly about. Ask him or her to write a letter to the editor expressing an opinion on that issue.

16. Over a period of several weeks, have your child find pictures and articles about other children (you might want them to find information about children their own age) in the news.

Glossary of Newspaper Jargon

- Assignment**—A story a reporter is given to cover.
- Beat**—A type of news, such as education or government, that a reporter regularly covers.
- Byline**—Name of a writer at the head of a story.
- Circulation**—The total number of copies of the newspaper delivered in one day.
- Copy**—All material for publication, whether stories or pictures.
- Copy editor**—A newspaper worker who corrects or edits copy written by a reporter and writes headlines.
- Cut**—To shorten newspaper copy; also means a newspaper photograph.
- Cutline**—The descriptive information below a picture.
- Dateline**—The line at the beginning of a story giving the place of the reported incident.
- Deadline**—Time at which all copy for an edition must be in.
- Dummy**—A diagram or layout of a newspaper page, showing the placement of stories, headlines, pictures and advertisements.
- Edition**—The issue for one press run.
- Editorial**—An expression of opinion by the newspaper's editors, usually reflecting the opinion of the publisher or owner of the newspaper.
- Feature**—A story in which the interest lies in some factor other than the news value.
- Five Ws**—Who, what, when, where and why (sometimes "H" for how); the major questions answered in the lead of a well-written news story.
- Headline**—An explanatory title over a newspaper article summarizing the main point for the reader.
- Inverted pyramid**—A method of writing by placing parts of the story in descending order of importance.
- Jump**—To continue a story from one page to another.
- Lead**—The first few sentences or the first paragraph of a news story, containing the summary or the introduction to the story.
- Libel**—Publication of material unjustly injurious to someone's reputation.
- Managing editor**—The editor who directs the daily gathering, writing and editing of news and the placement of news in the paper.
- Masthead**—The matter printed in every issue of a newspaper or journal, stating the title, ownership, management, subscription and advertising rates.
- Op-ed page**—Means "opposite the editorial page." This section may include reader opinions, columns and other non-news features.
- Publisher**—The chief executive and often the owner of a newspaper.
- Review**—An account of an artistic event that offers a critical evaluation, the opinion of the writer.
- Rewrite**—(1) Write a story again to improve it; (2) alter a story that appeared somewhere else; (3) or write a story from facts called in by a reporter.
- Syndicated features**—Material such as comics, advice columns, etc., supplied nationally to newspapers by news syndicates.
- Typo**—Short for "typographical error," a mistake made during the production of a story.
- Wire services**—News-gathering agencies, such as The Associated Press, which gather and distribute news to subscribing newspapers.



Why Use the Newspaper?

1. Newspapers make learning fun.
2. Newspapers are easy to use.
3. Newspapers are extremely flexible and adaptable to all curriculum areas and grade levels.
4. Newspapers motivate students to read.
5. Newspapers keep students informed.
6. Newspapers link students to the real world.
7. Newspapers are a common community link – a community talking to itself.
8. Newspapers are an excellent remedial tool with high status as an adult medium.
9. Newspapers help students understand freedom of the press and other rights guaranteed in the Constitution.
10. Newspapers are ideal for building many educational skills, such as locating information, identifying the main idea of a paragraph, developing better critical thinking skills, understanding cause and effect, recognizing important details, determining accuracy, proof reading, anticipating outcomes, and improving skimming, scanning and surveying skills.
11. Newspapers build good reading habits.
12. Newspapers can be cut, marked, clipped, pasted, filed.
13. Newspapers give everybody something interesting to read.
14. Newspapers entertain as they teach.
15. Newspapers are a cost-effective way to educate.

**For more information about using
the newspaper as an educational tool,
contact:**

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