

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NEWSPAPER ACTIVITIES

The newspaper is a great learning resource for your child. It can be read for news, general information, enjoyment, sports, or business purposes and reinforces reading skills taught in the school. Specifically, the newspaper encourages reading for fun and information, utilizes reading skills, increases the variety of materials read, and teaches children about events in their community, country, and around the world.

Most children will not pick up the newspaper to read on their own except to look at the funnies or sports scores. However, with parent encouragement, several activities can be used to help spark children's interest in reading the newspaper.

- Pick out a headline and turn it into a question. Ask your child to find the article and answer the question.
- Choose an interesting article and ask your child to read it to you while you are fixing dinner. Discuss the article with your child.
- Use a picture to interest your child. Ask your child to predict what an article is about based on a picture. Then ask the child to find out if the prediction is correct.
- Ask your child to find specific information in the paper by using the newspaper index. Look up movies and times, weather forecasts, classified ads, editorials, etc.
- Ask your child to clip coupons for the weekly grocery shopping. Coupons can be categorized for easy use.
- Use news stories for locating fact and opinion. Have your child mark factual material with red pen, opinions with blue.
- Cut out news stories and separate the paragraphs. Ask your child to place the paragraphs in logical order.

TEACHING AT HOME

It is important that parents become partners with the school in the education of a child. The time that a child spends at home can be full of interesting, educational, and creative activities. Parents, take advantage of time with your child to help increase his/her curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm for learning. Utilize common items in the home such as books, newspapers, tape recorders, televisions, clocks, measuring utensils, thermometers, magnifying glasses, computers, animals, etc. to turn everyday activities into learning experiences for your child.

Parents can work with a child at home to develop various skills. Those skills include:

1. **Physical Skills** - Choose toys and activities which work with both small and large muscle groups. Encourage activities which improve strength and coordination.
2. **Intellectual Skills** - Use word and number games, write messages back and forth, make lists, provide learning materials, and read, read, read! Use math skills in games, baking, shopping, and on trips.
3. **Speech and Language Skills** - Utilize language skills by asking questions and encouraging your child to ask questions. Discuss everything! Tell stories, write stories, and talk about day-to-day experiences.
4. **Listening Skills** - Children may improve listening skills by hearing books on tape and describing what they heard. Give children a set of directions and have them follow in sequence.
5. **Visual Skills** - Use objects in the home to help your child identify shapes, understand measurement, learn about colors, and notice details. Play memory games based on what a child has seen on a trip or at the zoo.
6. **Social Skills** - Social skills are increased as a child develops self-confidence and the ability to explore and try new things. Provide a variety of experiences for your child, such as outdoor hikes, trips to the store, and interaction with other children and adults.

*"Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving wordy evidence of the fact."
George Eliot*