

Reading newspapers and magazines with your child

For students in junior and middle grades

Discover the world of newspapers

“ The cumulative effect of daily newspaper reading pays major dividends in broadening a student’s knowledge.”
Stephanie Harvey, *Nonfiction Matters*

Find a purpose

What are you looking for when you pick up the paper?

- The comics, to read for fun
- The movie listings, to check for this weekends entertainment
- The hockey standings, to satisfy your curiosity
- The stock price, for a possible investment
- Your horoscope, for laughs
- The issues at hand, to understand our world more fully

Consider the features

- Index
- Photographs
- Charts
- Headlines
- Captions
- Illustrations
- Bullets
- Tables
- Maps

Explore the sections of the paper

What information might interest your child? Once you have an idea, ask your child to find the details. Turn to the

appropriate section and page, then discuss what you see-headlines, pictures, charts, maps, etc...

Have your child read the words. Do all the words make sense? Match the visuals to the words for greater understanding. Does anything else need classification? You may need to read some parts aloud and explain some of the words and phrases. Ask who, what , where, when and why questions.

Remember that reading the paper means picking and choosing sections and articles, not necessarily reading the whole paper.

Be creative

- Keep a cupboard, drawer or box of newspaper articles. See how many different kinds of articles you can find (e.g. recipe, movie review, funny article, comics, maps, poem, editorial, etc...)
- Do a scavenger hunt. Find all the photographs. How many show more than one person? How many don't have the name of the person in caption? How many have animals with them?
- Cut out your favorite comic, the most interesting editorial or the article that makes you think about the city/world you live in and post it on the fridge. How do others in your family react?

- Create a challenge. Everyone in the family picks a stock and follows it for one month. Who made the most money? Who had the greatest gain in one day?

Discover the world of magazines

What kinds of magazines suits your fancy as a parent? There are magazines to fit everyones tastes. Find a subject that interest your child and get a subscription, search out the free ones or download articles from the web.

Find a topic of interest

- Sports
- Science and Technology
- Entertainment
- Fashion
- News issues
- Math
- Literature

Consider the features

- Cover
- Color
- Diagrams
- Index
- Photographs
- Labels
- Titles
- Captions
- Font

Explore the magazine

Look through the magazine. Ask your child to pick and article that might be of interest. Once your child is finished, read it. What did you think about the article? Exchange opinions, questions and feelings. Ask who, what, where, when

and why questions. Decide what is important together and talk about it. Children and teens need to pick out the main idea and supporting details while reading.

You can also have fun with surveys, tests, advertisements, question and answer sections and crossword puzzles. Remember that reading a magazine means picking and choosing sections and articles, and not necessarily reading the whole magazine.

Share your curiosity

- Find a wild fact in the magazine. Create a question and ask your child to find the answer. Challenge him to do the same with you.
- Ask your child to find information about an interesting person. What is the most intriguing fact about that person? Why is that fact intriguing? Are there other details she would like to share?
- Cut out your favorite picture, a riddle or the article that makes you think about the city/world you live in, and post it on the fridge. How do others in your family react?

Access free resources

- Tribute Kids (available in Cineplex Odeon Locations)
- Famous Kids (available at Famous Players Locations)
- What- www.whatmagnet.com
- Verve- www.vervegirl.com
- Fuel- www.fuelpowered.com

Consider a subscription to one of these magazines:

- Wild- www.cwf-fcf.org
- Kidsworld- www.kidsworld-online.com
- Eye on Science- www.eyescience.com
- Owl- www.owlkids.com
- Scholastic: SuperScience, StoryWorks, Dynamath, Scope, Action, Science World, Scholastic Arts, Scholastic Math, Choices- www.scholastic.ca
- National Geographic Kids- www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids
- Sports Illustrated for Kids- www.sikids.com
- Time for kids- www.timeforkids.com