

Newspaper Games

Letter Search

Search for different letters of the alphabet. Throughout the various sections of the newspaper, your child can pick out type written in different sizes, colors, fonts (typefaces), and styles (**bold**, *italic*, etc.). As your child locates and then cuts out letters of the alphabet, he/she will discover the many ways that a letter can be written and still be that letter. These letters can be glued to paper to make an ABC poster or book.

Word Search

Go on a word search together. As your child begins to recognize words, encourage the search for the words he/she knows by sight. Use a crayon or marker to circle the words your child finds. You can create a word bank by cutting out the words your child knows and gluing them on index cards or piece of papers and storing them a decorated shoe box or envelope. Add new words and review the words in the bank together.

Focus on Pictures

There are many things to do with pictures from the newspaper:

- Look at the picture, cover it, and recall as much as possible.
- Make a scrapbook of pictures on the same topic.
- Make picture cards and play memory games.
- Make up a story about what might have happened before or after a photo was taken.

What's an Ad?

Introduce your child to the differences between articles and advertisements. Point out the drawings, the prices (with dollar signs), and the borders that often surround ads. Talk about the purposes of newspaper articles and ads: articles are intended to inform, while most advertisements try to influence us to buy something.

Comic Strips

Introduce your child to comic strips. Explain that the people in comic strips are characters, and the words the characters say are written in the bubbles, to introduce the concept of dialogue. Make up your own stories, and use the comics to tell your own versions.

Newspaper Activities for Class and Home

- Create a newspaper for the family or classroom. Children can report on the “news of the day,” such as what was for dinner, any activities or games played, and who had homework.
- Use the pictures in the newspaper, the advertising supplements, and magazines to make an alphabet book or topic book. Students look through the newspaper for things that start with the letter/sound that they are supposed to focus on or are on the topic. They mount these objects on the appropriate page and bind them together.
- Make a time capsule as a special record of a birthday or holiday. Together, select interesting items such as the biggest headline, the weather, a sports event, a favorite cartoon, etc. Cut them out, and make a handwritten note about the day. Put them in an empty box and wrap it in newspaper. Put the date on the box and store it in a special place to be opened on the same date in a future year.
- Plan a party or a meal. Use the grocery advertisements and plan a menu. Decide on a budget and help your child select the items you need. Calculate how much they will cost.
- Create a scavenger hunt using the newspaper. This activity can be adapted to all learning levels. Use a page, a section, or the entire newspaper to create a list of items to find. For younger children, make the hunt broader: ask children to find a picture of an animal, the letter B, the color yellow, etc. The older the children, the more specific the list: the telephone number you would call to subscribe; the starting weekly cost for a home-delivered subscription of the newspaper; the name of the editor and publisher; a comic strip showing a working woman; the score from last night’s hockey game, etc.