

Take Stock in Reading!



The world of business and finance is a surprisingly fun place to visit with your children. Learning how to budget and use money wisely is a part of everyone's life. You can use the newspaper to begin improving financial literacy, even at an early age.

 **Using Numbers.** As your children learn basic math skills, look for numbers they can add and subtract: stock prices, world currency figures, interest rates. Even very young children can take part by looking for numbers they are learning. How many 1's, 3's or 8's can they find on a page?

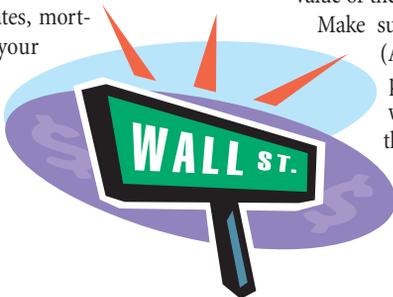
 **Talking Finance.** Elementary and middle-school children can begin to develop a "financial vocabulary." Look over the business section with them and circle words associated with finance—gains, savings, profits, losses, debits, mergers, stocks, rates, mortgage, etc. Ask your child to write down some of the words he doesn't

know and look them up in the dictionary. Save the newspaper page with the circled words and read the articles aloud so your child can hear the words used in context. Try to use the words your child has found in a fun way, like his savings from his allowance.

 **Tracing Stock.** You can use the stock market page for a fun family activity. Determine how the stocks are identified and pick out familiar ones—appliance, car or computer manufacturers or fast-food chains, for example. Pretend that each family member has \$1,000 with which to buy shares of stock. Track them over time—say three months. Then see who did well, who did poorly, and which stocks were the best choices.

 **Making an Exchange.** Look at the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar in other countries. Ask your child to figure out the value of the U.S. dollar in several countries.

Make sure to use different continents (Asia, Europe, Africa) in the comparison as well. How many euros would your child need to buy that new video game she wants?



Sing, Dance, Act, Read!

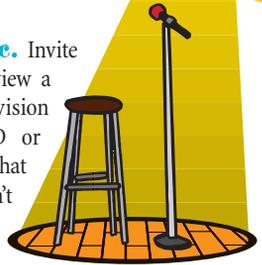
All children like to be entertained, and many are interested in the entertainment industry—whether it's music, theater, dance, movies, books or all of the above. One of the best ways to encourage children to read is to introduce them to information that interests them. The entertainment section in your newspaper is full of juicy tidbits and useful facts, from celebrity gossip to movie times.

Try some of these fun activities with your child to engage him in reading.

Act It Out. The entertainment section often includes reviews of the latest movies, video releases, live performances and books. Read a review out loud together. Read it again with lots of dramatic flair, emphasizing the reviewer's point of view. Changing your vocal inflections helps build fluency and makes reading aloud more fun.



Be the Critic. Invite your child to review a new movie, television show, music CD or book. Ask him what he liked or didn't like about it. Did it make him sad or happy? Did it make him laugh or leave him in breathless suspense? Now look for a review of that same item in the newspaper or on the Internet and let him compare his opinion to the professional critic's review. Do they agree? Some newspapers even publish kids' reviews. Children love to see their words in print!



What's It All About? Look through the entertainment section together for advertisements of movies and books. Ask your child what she thinks the movie or book is about based on the title and the style of the ad. What type or genre does she think the movie or book falls into—comedy, drama, romance, thriller? Now read a description of the movie or book together to see if your child's predictions about the story and style agree. Making predictions is a good pre-reading strategy. It helps kids think about what they are about to read and makes the process of reading more meaningful.



Read to Live, Live to Read!

Whether your child prefers playing basketball or video games, her physical health is important. The newspaper offers many opportunities for you to help your child increase her health literacy.

True health literacy means more than understanding the basics about health and includes many of the “other” literacy skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking, comprehension and math. Try some of these activities to improve your children’s health literacy—and their health in general.

Information Is Power. Where does your child get most of his health-related information? While school might be one source of information, there are many other resources available, including the newspaper. Look for articles of interest to your child—perhaps a story about wearing bike helmets, or the latest fad diet. Help your child look up more information on the Internet or at the library, and let him know that parents, doctors and other trusted adults can help him understand the complicated issues surrounding health.

Make It Adventurous.

It’s one thing to ask your child to go for a walk with you, but it’s a lot more fun to plan an adventure. Read the newspaper together and look for a special place to go for a walk—maybe there’s a new park or museum, or a sidewalk sale at the local mall. Talk about what shoes and clothing you should wear for safety and comfort on your walk. If you’re planning an outdoor adventure, be sure to check the weather forecast in the newspaper.

You Are What You Eat. Using coupons and grocery advertisements, build a food pyramid with your child. What foods can you find that fit into the breads and grains category? Fruits? Vegetables? Dairy? Protein? You might even paste the coupons and ads you find on a piece of construction paper and hang it on the refrigerator as a reminder of the major food groups.



Reading in Your Own Back Yard



Children usually take an interest in the here and now, the events that are happening immediately and around them—a new restaurant or store that’s about to open, a favorite singer coming to town, or a school policy that’s under debate. The newspaper is full of interesting information about your child’s community. Sharing this information is a great way to keep your child engaged in local news while also building reading skills.



Where and When.

Look for an event coming to your community that would be of interest to your child—a concert, a home or electronics exposition, a food festival, or the publication of a new book by a favorite author. Mark the day of the event on a calendar and ask your child to help you calculate how many days remain before the event. If you need to have a ticket to the event, mark on the calendar when tickets become available.



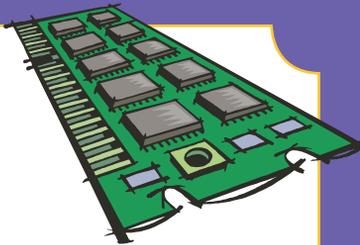
What Do You Think?

Invite your middle school or high school children to read through the editorials and op-ed pages of the newspaper, looking for differing opinions about a local issue. Ask your child where he weighs in on the subject. If he feels strongly about it, encourage him to write his own letter to the editor and send it to the paper. At the same time, look for the newspaper’s guidelines about submitting articles and discuss why you think the paper has set these guidelines.



What Do They Do? Often, newspaper articles refer to or quote from important figures in your community—a member of the school board, the mayor, the chief of police or a local business owner. Help your child identify these leaders and start a list of the people who make an impact on your community. What are their responsibilities? What are the qualifications they bring to their positions? Maybe your child would like to write a letter to one of these leaders to ask about his or her role in the community.

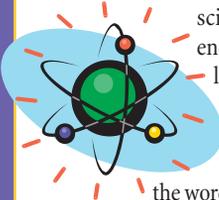




Reading Breakthroughs!

Today's children live in a technological world of computers, iPods, cell phones and DVDs. Children of all ages are fascinated with science and technology. Parents can build on this interest through the science and technology pages of the newspaper.

Science ABCs. Help younger children become familiar with the language of science by creating their own science dictionary. Pick an alphabet letter and help them find five words on the science or technology page that begin with that letter. Children can put the words in alphabetical order, find the definitions and draw illustrations.



Step-by-Step. Use an article on a scientific process to help your child learn sequencing skills. Read the article with your child. Cut it into paragraphs or sentence strips. Then ask your child to put them in the correct order. Talk about the necessity for following steps in a science project or even in a mechanical activity like assembling a bike or cooking.

Follow a Lead. Involve your high school child in science and technology by directing her to articles you think she would enjoy and suggesting follow-up activities. For example, ask her if she knows how to download music legally to the computer and ask her to compare the different services that offer legal music sharing. Share an article announcing a new drug's availability. Ask if she knows the process drugs go through before they are made available to the public.

Making the News. An article announcing the new design of your local paper can lead to a discussion with your child about the technology involved in producing newspapers today. Suggest she research the history of newspaper production—when and where was the first newspaper printed and what was involved in producing it? Talk about how newspapers were created before the advent of computers.

Using the science and technology page of the newspaper is a fun way to help your child practice and build reading skills while learning important information, too.





Good Sports and Reading!

Recreational activities exist all around the world. But the sports that we enjoy in our country may not be the same sports that are played in other countries. The sports pages of the newspaper can tell you more than just who won last night's game. They can be the source of fun learning activities for you and your child. That makes everyone a winner.

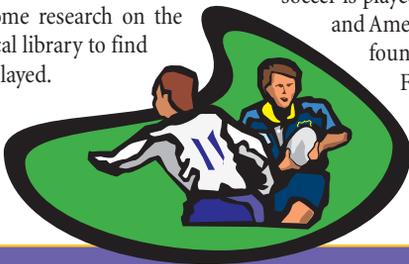
 **Numbers.** Point out some scores to your young child and ask him which number is larger or which is smaller. Have your child find all the numbers that are the same as his age or practice reading numbers with two or three digits.

 **Sports Around the World.** Help your child choose a country and find out what its national or most popular sport is. What other countries have the same or a similar national sport? Where are they located? If the sport is an unfamiliar one, your child can do some research on the Internet or at your local library to find out how the game is played.

 **Comparing Scores.** Ask your child to compare scores of teams. Determine the winner and the point span enjoyed by the winner by subtracting the lower score from the higher. Watch out—in some sports, such as golf, the lower score determines the winner.

 **What's a Ranking?** Teenagers may be interested in rankings for a sport. Ask how the rankings are determined. Are they based on won/loss record, regional conferences or other factors? Check out different polls (coaches, media, etc.) for the same sport and compare how teams are ranked in those polls.

 **Root for the Home Team.** Ask your child if she knows the hometowns of various sports teams, both nationally and internationally. Point out some in the paper and then help your child locate them on a map or the globe. For example, English polo teams play in Essex and Newmarket, soccer is played in Bolivia and Argentina, and American football teams can be found in cities like San Francisco and Jacksonville.





Take a Reading Trip!

Can you think of a better place to begin planning a family vacation than the travel and leisure section of your newspaper? Make it a family project, as well as a fun and educational event. Planning is an important skill for children and adults alike, with much to be gained in the process. Try these ideas to help make planning fun.

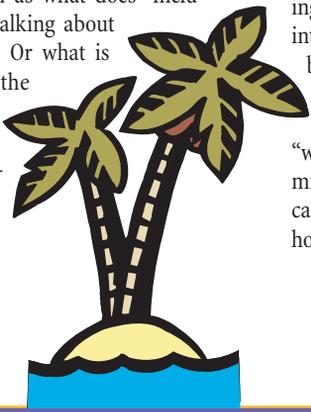
Scavenger Hunt. Before your family decides on a destination, explore the travel and leisure section over a period of time. Read some articles about possible vacation spots together and talk about places you might want to visit. You can make a game of it—have a scavenger hunt! Ask children to search for information to answer a specific question, such as what does “inclusive” mean when talking about vacation packages? Or what is there to do at the beach on a rainy day? How many ballparks or historical landmarks can we visit in a week?

Internet and Library Searches.

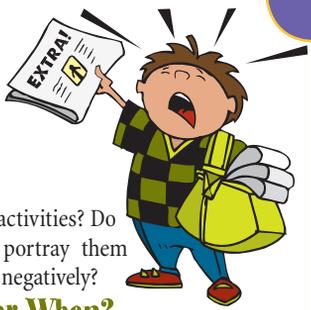
Once your family has a list of possible vacation destinations, it is time to research. Visit the library to discover more about your selected locations. At home, children might enjoy doing Internet searches. Gather information about sights to see, cost of accommodations (daily or weekly) and dining facilities. Compile your information in a notebook or portfolio and share it with the entire family. Discuss the pros and cons of each vacation destination.

Destination: Fun!

Not many vacations are planned without a budget or some other sort of parameters. Sometimes families need just a day or two to get away. Even a day trip requires some planning. Ask your children to plan a day trip, starting with the newspaper. Are there any fun, interesting or educational locations close by? Or plan a weekend away. Establish some guidelines for your children and see what they suggest. For example, the “weekend retreat” has to be less than 200 miles away, or less than two hours away, or can cost only \$150 total for the day. See how creative your children can be.



Read All About It!



Advances in technology have made our world smaller and our access to information greater. Events happening halfway around the world no longer seem so far away. The world and national news sections of the newspaper give parents many opportunities to read and interact with their children.

report their activities? Do the articles portray them positively or negatively?

Remember When?

Today's news stories usually appear in the newspaper the day they are filed. Talk to your child about how quickly newspapers can report the news now because of the electronic transfer of words and pictures through computers. Ask your child to imagine how long it used to take when every letter in the newspaper was typeset by hand. Research the history of newspapers with your child or create a timeline of print-related technology.

Where in the World? Using

a map or atlas, help your child find the country and city where a news story took place. Talk about what route you would take to reach that location. How could you travel? Car? Boat? Plane? How long a trip would it be? Estimate the number of miles by using the scale on the map.



What's It All About? Read

some of the front-page headlines with your child. Ask him to predict from the headlines what the articles might be about. Then read the articles together. Did the information in the articles confirm your child's predictions or not? Ask your child to write his own headlines for the article.



Who's Who? Point out the names of

some of the people who are featured in national and world news articles. Ask your teenager if she knows who they are. Are they politicians or persons of power in their country? Why do newspapers want to

