

Class Newspaper

Materials:

- several newspapers
- chart paper and marker
- newsprint
- drawing paper
- drawing and writing materials
- alphabet rubber stamps and/or stencils
- computer (optional)

Objective: Children will learn about the different parts of a newspaper, types of information found in a newspaper, and how writing is developed for a newspaper. They will work together to create their own class newspaper.

ACTIVITY

1. Ask children to share what they know about newspapers. Why do people read newspapers? What type of information is found in a newspaper? Record children's responses on chart paper.
2. Bring a newspaper to class to show children the different sections and information found in a newspaper. Discuss how the information found in a newspaper is 'current' — that is, the 'newest' news goes into a paper. Following the discussion, review the different sections of a newspaper. Record the name of the newspaper at the top of a piece of chart paper. Create a list of the different sections found in the newspaper (world news, local news, entertainment, sports, food, advertisements, comics, weather and so on). Explain to children that different writers are responsible for specific sections of the newspaper.
3. Explain to children that they will work together to create their own class newspaper. The news in their class paper will be all about their classroom. Invite children to think of a name for their class newspaper and assist them in choosing sections of the newspaper that they will be responsible for writing or drawing.
4. Meet with children in small groups to assist them in planning their sections and gathering their information. Children may need to refer to local newspapers or internet sites to gather some of their information (for instance, about weather or children's films or television programs). Some children may need assistance in developing and conducting interviews to obtain newsworthy information. Children can use drawings or photography to depict current events such as a great block-building project, new staff member, or new baby in a classmate's family. Some children may enjoy developing a comic strip for the newspaper or creating advertisements.
5. Provide children with drawing paper, drawing materials and lettering tools and assist them in writing, dictating and editing their work. Work with children to develop a layout for their newspaper. Children can cut and paste their work onto the large sheet of newsprint paper pre-folded to create a newspaper layout. Children can take turns taking their paper home to share with their families.

Remember: Some children may be more motivated than others to engage in the activity. Be flexible and encourage alternative ways for children to assist in the process.