When I Grow Up
To Teachers/Parents:
The newspaper offers a wealth of information and opportunities for children. Language development, reading, math, and current events are just a few areas that can be taught and strengthened by integrating the newspaper into your daily classroom work.

In this section you will find plenty of newspaper activities that get children interested in their newspapers. In addition, our Idea Time! activities were designed to encourage further exploration of the subject matter.

As you make your way through this section, you will also notice many words in capital letters. Make a vocabulary list of these words on the chalkboard as you proceed through the section and ask students to find out more by using the dictionary, encyclopedia, Internet, or other source. Discuss the words in detail if you wish, or create extra activities around them. The possibilities are endless!

To make your Newspaper in Education experience enjoyable, consider these suggestions:

• Read aloud all the information regarding each job and ask students to discuss their thoughts. Instructions for conducting the newspaper and related activities are found at the bottom of each page.

• Give children plenty of space when using the newspaper. They can sit at tables or on the floor.

• Separate sections of the newspaper. Give children only the sections they will be using. Consider stapling the folded edge of each section for easier handling.

• Some activities will call for glue or paste, scissors, a pencil, and crayons. If you plan to use the section over a period of days, you might want to have the children use tape for cut-and-paste activities to prevent pages from sticking together.

Resources
The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
Career Discovery Encyclopedia, Ferguson Publishing Co., Chicago
Lexington Herald-Leader (Ky.)
NASA
World Book Encyclopedia

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Meet Doink:

Did I scare you? No? It figures. I never scare anyone! My name is Doink, and I’m about as scary as … as … you are! My mother says when I grow up I’ll be a very scary monster. Boy, do I hope she’s right!

What do you want to be when you grow up? You know, you can be almost anything you want to be: a teacher, a scientist, an artist — even the president of the United States! There are more jobs to choose from … than stars in the sky!

And if you’re wondering why you need a job in the first place, think about this: people get paid money to do jobs. Then they use the money to pay for shelter, food, clothing, and whatever else they need.

But money isn’t the only reason people have jobs. Imagine what would happen if everyone stopped working. Grocery stores would close. Libraries would lock their doors. Newspapers wouldn’t be printed. Everything would stop! Even your school would shut down.

You see, jobs are very, very important! It’s the way the world … works! So, are you ready to find out more? Then let’s get started by looking at some of the possibilities!!

Activity 1

Your job as a student is to learn as much as possible and earn good grades. Look up employment ads in the classified section of your newspaper and read a few to see how they are written. Then pretend you are a teacher who’s looking for good students and write an employment ad along these lines.
When I grow up, I want to be a …

**Paleontologist**

I love to dig in the dirt! What about you? Do you? If you said, “yes,” then you might like to be a PALEONTOLOGIST!

You see, long before there were people, dinosaurs and strange plants and animals lived here on Earth. When they died, their bodies were left behind in mud and earth that hardened into FOSSILS. Today, scientists called paleontologists dig in the ground searching for dinosaur bones and fossils. Then, like pieces of a puzzle, they put them together to learn more about these mysterious animals. Have you ever seen a dinosaur skeleton?

**Activity 2**

Giganotosaurus was a big dinosaur — bigger than T. rex! The word Giganotosaurus is so big, it has 14 letters. Can you find a word in a newspaper headline that’s bigger than 14 letters? Cut it out and paste it in the space above. Then find the shortest word in a newspaper headline. Cut it out and paste it above. Do you know what your words mean? Use a dictionary to find out.

**Idea Time!**

Would you like to see a dinosaur skeleton without getting your hands dirty? Dinosaur bones and other fossils are often on display at museums. Find out if your town or city has such a museum and ask your parents or another adult to take you there. Then share your adventure with the class. If your town doesn’t have these kinds of museums, get a book about dinosaurs from the library, read it and do a newspaper-style book review.
When I grow up, I want to be a ...

Ballet Dancer

Ballet dancers tell stories through dance movements. If you’ve ever seen TCHAIKOVSKY’S *The Nutcracker* during the holidays, then you know the story of Clara and her nutcracker doll. (I loved the scary dancing rats, didn’t you?)

Whether dressed in rat costumes or not, ballet dancers are the strongest and most graceful of all dancers. That’s because ballet dancing involves smooth, careful movements that are difficult to perform. Mother said I’d never be a dancer because I have two left feet. But I feel lucky. My Aunt Creepolla has three!

And if you think only women can be ballet dancers, think again, my human friend! Men make good ballet dancers, too! In fact, big burly football players often take ballet lessons to improve their balance and coordination.

Activity 3

Find the employment advertisements in the classified section of your newspaper. Read a few to see how they are written, then write your own. Pretend you are a dance teacher in a ballet company. The Nutcracker is starting next month and your very best ballet dancer just quit. Write an ad that says you need to hire a ballet dancer.

Idea Time!

See what it’s like to be a ballet dancer. Stand on the ball of your left foot while stretching your right leg out straight behind you. Hold your arms out for balance, but do not move or wiggle! Hold this position for one minute. Ask an adult to time you. Then write a few sentences about your experience.
Cartoonist

Garfield is a cat, right? Right! But Garfield is also a make-believe character made up by cartoonist Jim Davis. Davis draws Garfield and other characters in the “Garfield” comic strip with pencils, pens and colorful markers. And you guessed it! — Snoopy, Marmaduke, Dennis the Menace and others were also drawn by cartoonists! Someone even drew me!

Comic strips are found in newspapers. Some people call comic strips cartoons. But cartoons can also be ANIMATED drawings that move. If you’ve ever watched Bugs Bunny on television, then you’ve seen an animated cartoon.

Who’s your favorite comic strip or cartoon character?

Activity 4

Create your own comic strip character using the comics page of your newspaper. First, cut out a head for your character and paste it in the top of the box. Then using a different comic strip, cut out the body of another character and paste it below the head. Next, find two arms from two more comic strip characters and attach them to the body. Do the same thing for the legs. Now give your character a name!

Idea Time!

If your teacher agrees, plan a day for show and tell. Ask everyone to bring an item to class that they’ve created themselves at home or at school. If you don’t have anything to bring, learn about a famous artist by looking under “Art” in the encyclopedia. Tell the class what you learned.
Did you know that monsters, ghosts, witches, and vampires can’t see themselves in mirrors? It’s true! They don’t appear in photographs, either. That way, people never know if they really exist. So even though I can’t take pictures of my friends and family, I love to take pictures of trees, animals, and flowers. Do you?

Photographers tell a story through the pictures they take. You name it, and photographers have photographed it: people, mountains, animals, even pizza! Every picture you see in a book, newspaper, or magazine was taken by a photographer. Have you ever used a camera to take a picture? Give it a try sometime!

Good photographs show people’s emotions. Can you find photographs in your newspaper that show emotions? Cut several out and paste them on a large sheet of paper. Below each photograph write which emotion is shown, and bring your work to class for discussion.

What’s going on?

paste photograph here
Hats, masks, helmets, and other items worn on the head give us clues about the jobs people do.

Which jobs go with the following headgear? Use your head to figure it out. When you’re finished, ask your teacher to check your answers. There may be more than one answer for each.
Draw a scary hat or mask for Doink. Use crayons or markers to color it if you wish.
When I grow up, I want to be a ...

Teacher

My favorite teacher sees everything, even when her back is turned! Why? Because she has eyes in the back of her head! (She also has eyes on her toes and elbows, but that’s another story!)

No matter how many eyes your teacher has, one thing is sure: His or her most important task is to make sure you learn what is being taught.

But did you also know that teachers do more than give tests and grade homework papers? Some teachers coach soccer or baseball after school or help students REHEARSE for a school play. And whenever a student gets hurt on the playground or gets into trouble, teachers are there to help, just like grown-up friends!

Activity 6

The word teacher has seven letters. Find newspaper words that begin with each of those letters to describe your favorite teacher. Cut them out and paste them below.

T
E
A
C
H
E
R

Idea Time!

All good newspaper articles answer the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how. Pretend you are a newspaper reporter working on a FEATURE article about your teacher. Make a list of questions to ask, then interview him or her. Write a short article that answers the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how.
When I grow up, I want to be a...

**Musician**

The bugle is my favorite musical instrument to play, probably because I’m full of so much hot air!

Do you know what a musician does? A musician is someone who is very good at playing a musical instrument. Pianos, tubas, guitars, drums, and flutes are examples of musical instruments. Some musicians play their instruments alone, while others play in a band. What’s the easiest way to hear musicians at work? Turn on the radio!

There are four families of musical instruments: woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. An example of each is pictured on the left and listed below. Can you name another instrument for each family? If you need more help, ask your teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Instrument family</th>
<th>Name another example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French horn</td>
<td>BRASS</td>
<td>_____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violin</td>
<td>STRINGS</td>
<td>_____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clarinet</td>
<td>WOODWINDS</td>
<td>_____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tambourine</td>
<td>PERCUSSION</td>
<td>_____________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 7

Read the lost-and-found advertisements in the classified section of your newspaper. Then pretend you are a musical instrument that has lost its owner. Write a lost-and-found advertisement for your newspaper’s classified section.

Idea Time!

A guitar is a member of the string family. To make a simple guitar, find an old shoebox and cut a circle in the middle of the box lid. Tape the lid to the box. Then stretch six long rubber bands around the length of the box. Pluck the strings over the hole and see how many different sounds you can make. Try holding down strings against the box and listen for a difference in sound. Write a few sentences about your discoveries. Bring your instruments to school and have a concert for teachers and other classmates!

When I grow up, I want to be a ...

Chef

Ever tried fried worm tails? No? Then you don’t know what you’re missing! My mother used to make fried worm tails every Tuesday, and we’d dip them in her special sauce made out of mud and maple syrup. Mmmmmm! Those were the days!

If you’ve ever helped cook a meal or bake a cake, then you know what chefs do. Chefs work in the kitchens of restaurants making breakfast, lunch, and dinner for customers like you. Chefs also invent new recipes. Recipes are lists of ingredients and the directions to make a particular dish. For example, the ingredients for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich are peanut butter, jelly, and two slices of bread. Directions: Spread peanut butter on one slice of bread, jelly on the other slice. Then put the two slices together!

Most chefs wear white jackets and tall white hats. Long ago, people could tell how many ways a chef could make eggs just by counting the number of pleats, or folds, on his hat!

Activity 8

Find a recipe in the newspaper. Cut it out and paste it above. Then go “grocery shopping” through the newspaper advertisements for pictures of as many of the listed ingredients as possible. Cut them out and paste them below the recipe.

Idea Time!

Ask an adult for help finding a recipe with no more than five ingredients and make it at home. Bring your dish to school for a show and tell!
Would you like to be one of the most powerful leaders in the world? The president of the United States is just that. He or she is elected, or chosen, by American people who VOTE. When a presidential CANDIDATE runs for office, he or she selects a running mate, or someone to serve as VICE PRESIDENT if they win.

So what does the president of the United States do all day? First, he or she helps pass LAWS by convincing other people certain kinds of rules are needed. But a president cannot make a law alone. He or she needs the support of CONGRESS, which is made up of the SENATE and the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Our president also welcomes leaders from other countries to the United States by holding fancy dinner parties at the WHITE HOUSE, where he or she lives. And when our country goes to war, the president becomes the “commander in chief” of all the armed forces: the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marines.

To help the president make EXECUTIVE decisions, he or she selects officers to form what’s called the CABINET. Cabinet members are experts in various fields who give advice to the president and help him or her perform certain duties.
WHEN I GROW UP

Pilot

Some monsters can fly, so they don’t need airplanes. But humans cannot. That’s why airplanes were invented. And just like bus drivers drive buses, pilots fly airplanes. They sit at the front of the plane in the COCKPIT behind a large board covered with knobs, dials, and switches. Because flying big airplanes is such a difficult job, pilots get help from a copilot who sits next to them. Together, they adjust the many knobs and dials to make sure the airplane flies safely through the air. Have you ever been to an airport or flown in an airplane? Was it fun?

Idea Time!

The United States of America is one of the biggest countries in the world. Look for a map (try the weather page of your newspaper). Find the area on this map where you live and mark it with a red star. Then, with a green marker put a check near the places you’ve visited by car, bus, train, or airplane. Then with a blue marker, circle the places you hope to visit someday.
When I grow up, I want to be a...

Park Ranger

Have you ever been to Yellowstone? The Grand Canyon? Mammoth Cave? The Florida Everglades? If so, then you’ve visited a national park! National parks are beautiful places where people go to enjoy nature. And, just like police officers who protect your town or city, park rangers protect national parks.

Park rangers keep visitors safe from wild animals. But they also keep the animals safe from park visitors! That may sound funny, but some people don’t think plants and animals are very important, so they do things that might hurt them. Other people throw trash on the ground and make the park look dirty. Park rangers know that plants, animals, and other natural things are very important so they want people to behave. Park rangers also teach visitors about the plants, animals, and natural things inside the park by taking them on fun tours and walks.

Activity 11

Protecting our beautiful Earth means throwing away less trash and using things twice, such as newspapers, plastic milk jugs, and both sides of writing paper. Can you think of other ways to use the newspaper? Make a list and share it with your class. Then see if you can locate a recycling symbol on your newspaper. This means the paper on which the newspaper was printed used to be something else.

Idea Time!

Pick a national park you’d like to visit and look it up in an encyclopedia or on the Internet. Then write a few sentences that describe the park. To get started, try answering these questions: What kinds of special plants grow in this national park? What types of animals live there? Are there mountains or other rock formations inside the park? What’s the weather like there? What types of people live inside or near the park? How is this place different from where you live? Then draw a picture of your favorite park scene.