



Dear Tabby

Dear Tabby,

My high school has a new newspaper project and now all of us are required to "teach" from the newspaper. I teach family and consumer sciences classes, not English or reading. Help!

- Ms. Cook 'n Stew

Dear Ms. Cook 'n Stew,

Cooking and stewing are right up my alley! The newspaper is full of feature articles about home, hearth and family. Have your students peruse the entertainment section to locate cool new restaurants. If they try out these restaurants, have them write reviews and submit them to the newspaper. Many newspapers have a home decorating section. Students can use the newspaper for ideas on interior design projects, such as creating house plans, planning a room makeover or finding out how to make window treatments. Use the ads in the Sunday newspaper to assist your students in making a project budget. What about the food section? Can your students create new recipes or try out recipes they find in the newspaper? Think about what you already do in your classes and how the newspaper can support what you do. And have fun!

Dear Tabby,

I work in a community nonprofit agency and we have a lot of families who can't afford to buy books for their children. I know that having reading materials in the home is important. Do you have any suggestions?

- Wants to Help

Dear Wants to Help,

Do I have a resource for you! First Book and Idearc Media Corp., publisher of the Verizon® Yellow Pages and home to Superpages.com®, are working together to bring new books to children from low-income families in communities across the United States. You can register with First Book and gain access to award-winning new books for free and to deeply discounted new books and educational materials. To find out how to register, go to <http://register.firstbook.org/idearc>.

Dear Tabby,

I know it's important to read to my child, but my 2½-year-old daughter will not sit still for me to read to her. I've tried reading before naptime to help her get to sleep, but all she wants to do is grab the book and turn the pages. I can't get to the end of the story because of this. I don't want to stop reading, but it's no longer any fun. What do I do?

- Frustrated Mama

Dear Frustrated Mama,

Getting a toddler to sit still for any length of time is always a problem. Here's something to think about: Is your end goal to get your child to sleep, or to share a story? Sometimes reading out loud won't calm children down because they get caught up in the process of doing something fun with Mommy. If your goal is rest, try telling a story (without a book) or singing a soft and quiet song. When you do read to her, choose a time when you have her full attention. Don't feel like you need to read from the first page straight through to the back. Let her explore the book (this is what she is doing when she wants to turn the pages) and look at the pictures at her own pace. You may only get a few pages into the story before she wants to take over. Next time you will probably get further. Eventually, you'll read the whole story.