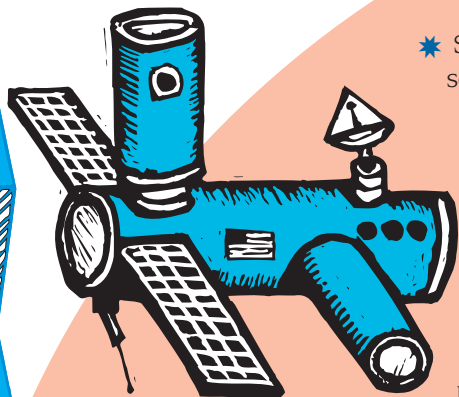


together to plan what you will need to wear. Then you can check the fishing report in the newspaper to see what fish are biting and where. While you are at your local fishing spot, talk about the plants, bugs, worms, tides, water movement and water pollution, using recent news about the environment as background.



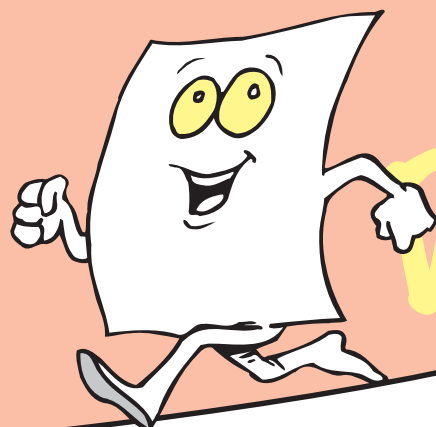
★ Space travel and discoveries about the solar system are exciting to most children. Preschool through high school students learn about outer space when they read about astronauts, trips to the International Space Station and other events. It doesn't have to be rocket science. Articles about space travel can lead to studying the stars, moon, planets, how spaceships work, gravity and much more.

★ If you want to stay down to earth, the travel section in the newspaper frequently has articles about different parts of the world and the animals living there. Share the information with your child and then do some research about the climate, the animals' habitats and the types of food they eat to survive. Discuss whether or not the animals could live in your area of the country.

★ In the food or health sections of the newspaper, you often can find information about healthy foods, recipes, exercise and nutrition. You and your child can plan a menu, calculate its nutritional value (calories, carbohydrates, protein, etc.), and have a fun and informative family meal. There often are recipes for dishes from around the world that can prompt research and discussion about the countries of origin. Sharing articles about health could inspire you and your child to chart your child's vaccinations, visit that new organic foods store or take a walk around the block.

★ Asking questions, or inquiry, is the basis of scientific study and research. Children of all ages are curious about what makes things happen. When you use a hands-on approach, children get to experience the reality of discovery. They learn that science is more than dry facts in a book. As science teacher Charles R. Pearce writes in his book "Nurturing Inquiry: Real Science for the Elementary Classroom," "The world around them is a mystery to be unraveled and solved. Place any child in any place and he or she will begin to explore. Ideas will develop, questions will flow, discoveries will be made."

Use your newspaper to encourage your child's interest in science and the world around him. Just think – one day your child may make a discovery that has a major impact on our world. He could make this discovery because you encouraged a sense of inquiry by using information available every day in your newspaper.



Dear Tabby

Dear Tabby,

My child is only 4 years old. Is there any way she can use the newspaper?
– Curious in Kalamazoo

Dear Curious,

Yes, there are many pictures in the paper that you can look at and discuss. For example, look at the weather page. Ask what she thinks the weather will be like based on the pictures. She can look at the comic pages and make up a story to go along with the pictures. Most children this age are beginning to learn to recognize the letters of the alphabet. Look at the headlines and point out the letters of her name.

Dear Tabby,

My son is in high school and thinks that science is not important. How can I help him see the value of reading about and studying science?
– Distracted Dad

Dear Distracted,

What are your son's special interests? If they include sports, find articles in the newspaper about sports medicine, nutrition or the physics of speed. You might compare the football uniforms of the 1920s with what is currently worn and discuss how scientific discoveries relating to sports injuries have prompted the changes.