

NEWSPAPER

Create your own personalised newspaper! Be as creative as you like with the content – for example local stories, interviews with family members, sports reports and maybe even a puzzle. Send the newspaper to your local care home for residents to read, complete and enjoy!

Equipment needed

- Paper, pen, colour pencils and ruler or a computer
- Something to attach the pages together – e.g. a stapler or a holepunch and string

Method

1. You can do this activity alone or with siblings and/or friends. Get in touch with your friends and see if they'd like to join in!
2. Think of an inventive title for your newspaper. It could be a play-on-words linked to your name, or the name of the place where you or the care home residents live.
3. Start thinking of what your dream newspaper would contain. On a separate piece of paper, brainstorm what news reports you'd like to include. Be as inventive as possible!

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Become a reporter! Interview members of your family. You could ask them to describe their favourite holiday or their dream day.



- Theme your newspaper around your school. Who are you as a school? What are the key things you and your classmates would like to share with older people, so they can understand more about you and what your school stands for? You could also print or draw pictures to accompany your article.
- Go on a nature walk and report back on what you see. What flowers have bloomed recently? Did you see any wildlife? The residents may not have been able to leave their home for a while, so you can help them to picture what's going on outside.
- Could you have a sports section in your paper? Do you have a favourite team, or play for one yourself? You could write your own match report for a recent game.
- Are there any local stories that you have heard of recently? Including local information will help the residents feel connected to their community.



Then as extra:

- Think about including games for the residents to complete. Perhaps check out our step-by-step guides for how to create your own crossword or word search. These puzzles could be themed – for example the words you “hide” could be different colours or types of animals.
- Often newspapers have a joke or a cartoon – could you include something funny that might make the residents laugh?



Tip - If you're working with friends or family, you could allocate roles and columns based on interests and hobbies. For example, you might have a classmate or friend who is really interested in baking – ask them if they could share their favourite recipes!

4. Once you've decided on all your content, the next step is to make a newspaper template. To do this you'll need to draw in columns, whilst also leaving in space for titles and pictures. Think about the stories you've chosen and work out how many pages you are going to use.



Tip - Remember to include little touches that will give your newspaper an authentic feel – like the date, numbered pages, issue number and maybe even a barcode. If you have an old newspaper handy, it might be helpful to use as a guide when you are making your own template.

5. Now that you have your template ready, get creating and decorating your newspaper!
6. Once you are happy with your newspaper content, you'll need to fasten the pages together. You can do this by stapling them, or by making a hole in each page (with a holepunch if you have one) and threading through ribbon/thread/string. If you have created your newspaper digitally, you can either print the pages and fasten them together, or email your creation straight to the care home.
7. Once complete, send your newspaper to the care home! Either send via post or put it through the letterbox if you can get there easily. Alternatively, you could email it to the care home if it is digital. You might want to include a card alongside it too, for the residents to read.

