

As well as being informative...

Newspapers can help students practice reading skills at home

The newspaper can have a tremendous impact on adults and children alike, says Dr. Nicholas Criscuolo, supervisor of reading for the New Haven, Connecticut, Public Schools. He adds that the newspaper can also have a desirable learning impact on children.

Criscuolo, a member of the Board of Directors of the 65,000-member International Reading Association, notes that a series of studies conducted by the Newspaper Advertising Bureau in 1980 found that the use of the newspaper in school increases student knowledge about current events as well as other important information.

He adds that teachers have found the newspaper to have a broad-based appeal to children of various ages.

"Availability is a key factor in whether a student will read the newspaper," stresses Criscuolo. "For 12 to 17-year-olds, 54 percent of those who live in a home receiving the newspaper will read it, whereas only 4 percent of the students will read it if a home does not get the newspaper."

Improves reading skills

Since reading achievement is such a high priority in our schools today, the use of the newspaper to practice reading skills at home is more important than ever.

"Once the newspaper enters the home, parents can do a great deal to capitalize on the newspaper's potential for boosting reading skills," says Criscuolo.

"The newspaper provides many opportunities for parents to help their children grow in reading ability."

Tips for parents

Criscuolo recommends the following ways or parents to use the newspaper with their children:

- Pick out an interesting article from the newspaper. As you are preparing supper, tell your child that you are busy and ask him or her to read the article to you.

- Garage sales are often advertised in the paper. Ask your child to list some upcoming garage sales in chronological order, detailing where they will be held. Using a map of the area, encourage your youngster to locate the streets on which these garage sales will take place.

- Classified ads often include abbreviations for familiar words. Encourage your child to make a list of these abbreviations and try to figure out the words from the context of the ads.

- Most children like going to the movies. Ask your child to clip out four or five ads for movies that he or she would like to see.

Encourage your child

Discuss the ratings assigned to the movies, such as "G" or "PG," before deciding whether to see a particular movie. If the movie is based on a book, encourage your child to read the

book in addition to seeing the movie.

- Children enjoy seeing their names in the newspaper. Ask your child to select one issue of interest which is discussed in a newspaper editorial. Find out if the youngster agrees or disagrees with the editorial.

Have child write

Then, ask the child to write a letter about this issue and send it to the newspaper. Chances are that it will be printed in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

- Matching captions with pictures is an appealing home activity. Clip out some pictures from the newspaper and put their accompanying captions aside. Ask your child to look at each picture and tell you what is

happening in it.

After the child has described a few pictures in this way, have the youngster read the actual caption for each picture and compare it to his or her version.

- Have your child mark specific parts of speech in an article, using different colored pencils. For example, your child can underline all the action words with a red pencil, circle all describing words with a green pencil and so on.

- Ask your child to select someone in the news (such as Reggie Jackson, Margaret Thatcher or Robin Williams) and follow their activities by clipping out articles about them and compiling a scrapbook. Children can also be guided to read the biographies of these

well-known people in books and magazines.

- As you write your grocery list, divide it into sections such as "Detergents," "Vegetables" and "Cereals." Then, ask your child to scour the advertisements and clip out at least three different ads for these items, putting them in the correct category.

Teaches consumerism

This will sharpen classification skills, and it also teaches the child to compare prices and become a wise consumer.

- Recipes are a "natural" for helping your child learn to follow printed directions. Let your child help when you decide to bake a cake, can vegetables or prepare dinner.

Ask your child to gather the necessary ingredients and follow the recipe. You can supervise to make sure the youngster is properly following the steps outlined in the recipe.

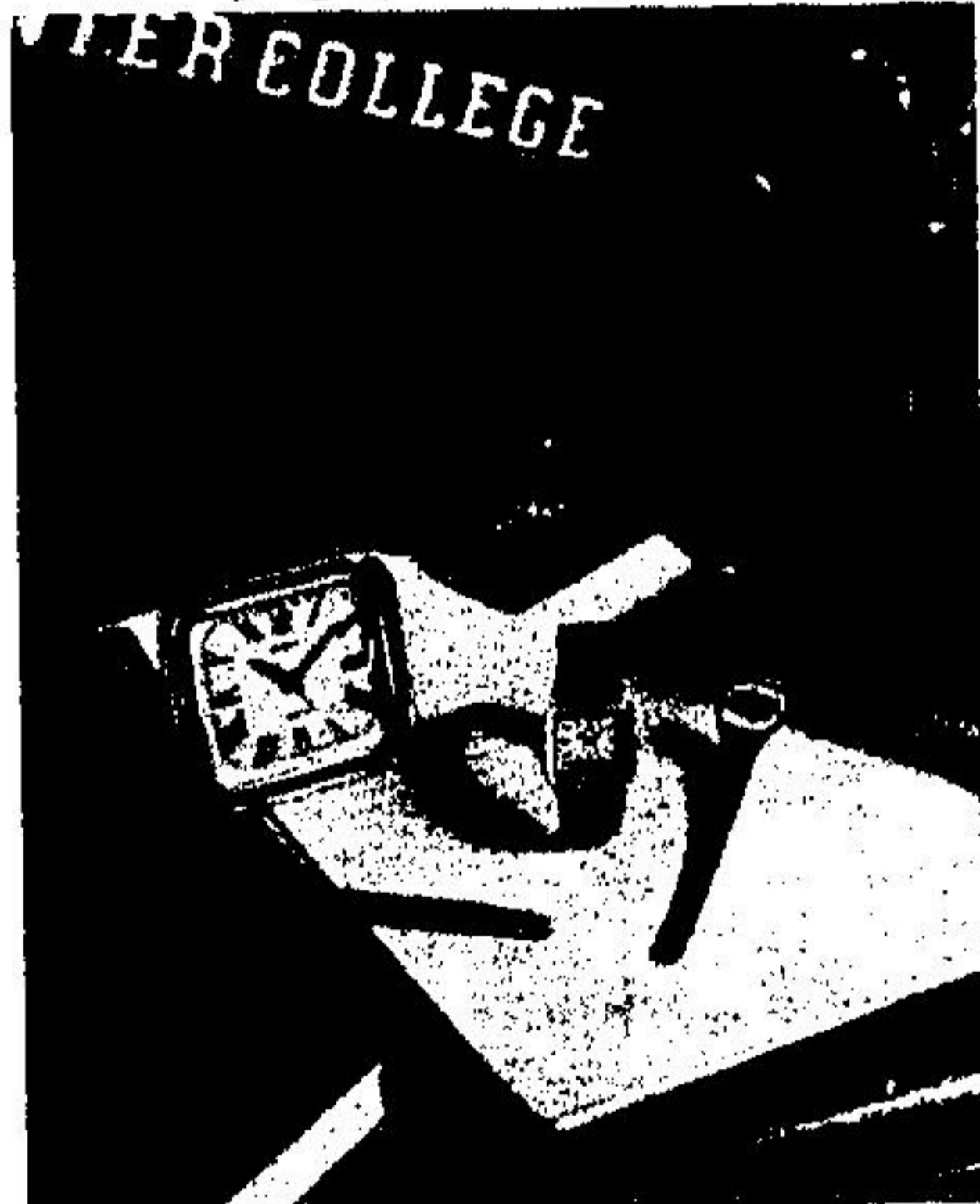
"Literacy can receive a substantial boost through the use of the newspaper," concludes Criscuolo.

Educational value

"Since so many homes subscribe to the newspaper, parents can take full advantage of its educational value by doing the newspaper-related activities described above.

"These activities will reinforce reading and communication skills, and foster a literate environment at the same time."

Timely tips for college students



COLLEGE DAYS CAN BE VERY BUSY—there are assignments that must be submitted on time and classes that simply can't be missed. What better way to keep punctual than with a convenient quartz desk-top clock with alarm (left) from Seiko? It has black, easy-to-read Roman numerals on a white dial with luminous hands and an attractive gold-tone case. For the college man, with a hectic schedule, Seiko's Personal Time Control Center watch (center) is a must! It has analog and digital readouts for a simultaneous display of time in any two time zones, an alarm plus hourly time signal, chronograph split-second accuracy, day/date feature, plus a handsome gold-tone dial and bracelet and luminous hands. An Active-co-ed won't want to be without this Lady Seiko quartz watch (right) with countdown timer and a 24-hour alarm and hourly time signal. This stylish timepiece with lizard strap and attractive gilt dial also displays the day and date with the simple push of button, a welcome benefit for the student on-the-go.

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