

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

CLUBHOUSE JR.®

Focus on the Family *Clubhouse Jr.* is a 32-page magazine designed to inspire, entertain and teach Christian Values to children ages 3-7. The magazine, which has a circulation of over 50,000, reaches young readers and their parents all over the world. For the parents, we want them to trust the *Clubhouse Jr.* provides wholesome, educational material with Scriptural or moral insight. For the kids, we want them to anticipate stories with excitement, adventure, action, humor or mystery. Your job, as a writer, is to create work that pleases both parents and children.

Fiction

We feature fiction stories in each issue. We look for fresh, creative stories, especially those with children our audience's age as the main character. The characters should be well-developed, the story fast-paced and interesting, and the prose descriptive and engaging. While our stories aren't always explicitly Christian, they should be built upon a foundation of Christian beliefs and family values. Key elements in a strong story are humor and charm. Fiction submissions should be between 800-1,000 words in length. We are also looking for early reader fiction stories with a word count between 400-600 words.

What we're looking for:

- Humorous stories with a point
- Contemporary stories with multicultural or ethnic settings
- Choose-your-own adventure stories

What we don't need:

- Stories where adults solve every problem
- Preachy sounding stories with an overbearing moral or message

Rebus Stories:

We also feature rebus stories in *Clubhouse Jr.* These unique picture-story pieces are written with the intent of encouraging parent/child interaction and reading development. Repetition of images, concise word choice and a humorous, insightful ending are the most important aspects of a successful rebus. Careful study of past issues provides the best source for understanding this genre. Rebus stories should be no longer than 200 words.

Nonfiction

We are always looking for unique and interesting nonfiction stories and articles, especially stories about real-life kids. Every article should have a Christian angle, though it shouldn't be overbearing. The concepts and vocabulary should be appropriate for our audiences' ages.

What we're looking for:

- Personality features of ordinary kids doing extraordinary thing (400 words or less)
- Unique animal and nature features tying in to faith (400 words or less)
- Easy craft, recipe and activity articles using common household items (300 words or less)
- Interviews with noteworthy Christians or Christians who experienced noteworthy events (athletes, actors, etc.) (400 words or less)
- Biographies of famous historical Christians or Christians who lived in extraordinary times (400 words or less)

What we don't need:

- Science or educational articles without Christian insight
- Biographies told in an encyclopedia or textbook-style without a kid angle
- Puzzles, word searches and crossword puzzles

Bible Stories:

Clubhouse Jr. often publishes Bible stories. We look for imaginative yet accurate retellings of Scripture. We generally favor lesser-known stories or stories told from a new point of view. The best styles are short captions, easy reader or comic-strip versions. A nonfiction sidebar highlighting accurate facts about the subject is a plus. Bible stories should be no longer than 400 words.

Payment

We generally pay between 15 and 25 cents per word, depending on the amount of editing required. Fiction, nonfiction and Bible stories are usually bought for \$100-\$200. Rebus stories are generally purchased for \$75-\$150.

Authors sign a contract and are paid upon acceptance of the story and sent complimentary copies when the piece is published. We do not consider reprinted stories. We purchase a non-exclusive license, and simultaneous submissions are not accepted.

Samples

If you would like a sample of the magazine to read and study, please send \$2.50 and a large self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below or call 1-800-232-6459.

Submissions

All manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, on one side only of 8½-by-11 inch paper. The author's name, address, phone number, email address and an approximate word count should appear on the first page of the manuscript or in the cover letter, as well as the genre of the story. We only accept completed manuscripts; no query letters. Material will not be returned unless a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage is included. Seasonal material should be sent in at least eight months in advance.

Address all submissions to:

Kate Jameson, *Clubhouse Jr.* Assistant Editor
Focus on the Family
8605 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

We do our best to respond to submissions within 12 weeks.