



CLUBHOUSE JR. WRITER'S GUIDELINES

Focus on the Family *Clubhouse Jr.* is a 24-page magazine designed to inspire, entertain and teach Christian values to children ages 4 to 8. With a circulation of approximately 80,000, the magazine reaches young readers and their parents all over the world.

FICTION

Fresh, inviting, creative fiction is the foundation of our magazine. The stories we publish explore a worthy theme without an obvious "moral." The characters should be well-developed, the story line fast-moving and interesting, and the prose descriptive and carefully constructed. Our stories are not always explicitly Christian, but they should be built upon a foundation of Christian beliefs and family values. Humor and charm are key elements in a strong story.

Length: For beginning readers 250-750 words
For parents to read aloud 700-1000 words

NONFICTION

Nonfiction articles should be concisely written in short caption-style format. Science and nature articles should be handled from a unique perspective, giving information that a child wouldn't find in a nature magazine. Articles about real children or adults with interesting experiences are also accepted. We love hearing about modern-day and historical heroes of the faith. The most successful articles are those that teach the audience in an amusing way and don't go over their heads with information.

Length: No longer than 600 words.

BIBLE STORIES

Bible stories should be imaginative yet accurate retellings of Scripture. We generally favor the lesser-known stories from the Bible. The best styles are short captions, easy reader or comic-strip versions. A nonfiction sidebar highlighting accurate facts about the subject is a plus.

Length: No longer than 800 words

REBUS STORIES

These picture-story pieces are written with the intent of encouraging parent/child interaction. 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.

Length: No longer than 350 words.

POETRY

Poems should reflect real-life experiences of young children. We generally publish humorous, descriptive poetry that tells a story and has a Christian-based message.

Length: No longer than 250 words.

ACTIVITIES/CRAFTS

Activities and crafts should offer creative, fairly easy ideas for parents and children to accomplish together. Materials should consist primarily of common household items. Short crafts and activities or longer articles combining a number of activities and/or crafts on the same topic are accepted. Most such articles are staff-written; we purchase only a few each year.

Length: No longer than 500 words.

PUZZLES

Puzzles should be creative, fun and usually biblically based. Nearly all the puzzles published in the magazine are staff-written. Standard types, such as word searches and crossword puzzles, are not accepted.

Length: One-page puzzles only.

SUBMISSIONS

All manuscripts should be typed or computer printed, double-spaced, on one side only of 8 1/2" by 11" paper. The author's name, address, phone number, Social Security number and an approximate word count should appear on the first page.

We accept completed manuscripts only; no query letters, please. Material will not be returned unless a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage is included. Seasonal material should be sent at least six months in advance.

Address all submissions to:

Joanna Lutz
Clubhouse Jr. Assistant Editor
8605 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

We respond to manuscripts within 6 to 8 weeks.

Payment:

Unsolicited fiction, nonfiction and Bible stories pay \$100-\$200, depending on how much editing is required (and other factors). An average payment for poetry is \$50-\$100. Puzzles pay \$30-\$80, and rebus stories pay \$75-\$150. Contributors are paid on acceptance and receive three complimentary copies of the issue in which their work appears. We purchase first rights only, and simultaneous submissions are not accepted.

Assignment Writing:

We generally begin to consider authors for assignment work after at least three unsolicited manuscripts have been purchased. We do not give assignments to writers who have never had a story published in our magazine.