



Take a Reading Trip!

Can you think of a better place to begin planning a family vacation than the travel and leisure section of your newspaper? Make it a family project, as well as a fun and educational event. Planning is an important skill for children and adults alike, with much to be gained in the process. Try these ideas to help make planning fun.

Scavenger Hunt. Before your family decides on a destination, explore the travel and leisure section over a period of time. Read some articles about possible vacation spots together and talk about places you might want to visit. You can make a game of it—have a scavenger hunt! Ask children to search for information to answer a specific question, such as what does “inclusive” mean when talking about vacation packages? Or what is there to do at the beach on a rainy day? How many ballparks or historical landmarks can we visit in a week?

Internet and Library Searches.

Once your family has a list of possible vacation destinations, it is time to research. Visit the library to discover more about your selected locations. At home, children might enjoy doing Internet searches. Gather information about sights to see, cost of accommodations (daily or weekly) and dining facilities. Compile your information in a notebook or portfolio and share it with the entire family. Discuss the pros and cons of each vacation destination.

Destination: Fun! Not many vacations are planned without a budget or some other sort of parameters. Sometimes families need just a day or two to get away. Even a day trip requires some planning. Ask your children to plan a day trip, starting with the newspaper. Are there any fun, interesting or educational locations close by? Or plan a weekend away. Establish some guidelines for your children and see what they suggest. For example, the “weekend retreat” has to be less than 200 miles away, or less than two hours away, or can cost only \$150 total for the day. See how creative your children can be.

