**CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN MAGAZINES**

**Brio**, Focus on the Family, targets teen girls

Focus on the Family’s Brio magazine for teen girls is a 76-page publication designed to provide inspiring stories, cultural insights, fun profiles and health & beauty tips—all from a biblical worldview. We want parents to trust that Brio provides relevant, educational material with scriptural or moral insight. Your job then, as a writer, is to create work that pleases both parents and teens.

<http://media.focusonthefamily.com/brio/pdf/brio-writers-guidelines-2019.pdf>

**Cadet Quest**, (non-denominational) Calvinist Cadet Corps, targets boys ages 9-14

*Cadet Quest* is a Christian-oriented magazine for boys ages 9–14. It is published by the Calvinist Cadet Corps — a ministry of over 500 boys’ clubs throughout churches in the United States and Canada. The goal of the Cadet Corps is “helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life.” *Cadet Quest* is one way we reach boys.

<https://counselors.calvinistcadets.org/submissionshelp/quest-authors-info/>

**Clubhouse Magazine**, Focus on the Family, targets ages 8-12

*Focus on the Family* Clubhouse is a 32-page magazine designed to inspire, entertain and teach Christian values to children ages 8-12. The magazine, which has a circulation of over 80,000, reaches young readers and their parents all over the world. Parents trust Clubhouse to provide wholesome, educational material with Scriptural or moral insight. The kids anticipate stories with excitement, adventure, action or humor. Your job, as a writer, is to create work that pleases both parents and children.

<https://www.clubhousemagazine.com/en/submission-guidelines.aspx>

**Clubhouse Jr., Focus on the Family**, targets ages 3-7

*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. Parents trust Clubhouse Jr. to provide wholesome, educational material with Scriptural or moral insight. Kids anticipate stories with excitement, adventure, action, humor or mystery. Your job, as a writer, is to create work that pleases both parents and children.

<https://www.clubhousejr.com/en/submission-guidelines.aspx>

**The Friend**, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, targets ages 3-12

The Friend is the monthly English language children's magazine published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is aimed at those of Primary age, approximately ages 3 through 12. It includes messages from church leaders, stories, crafts, recipes, and artwork and poetry submitted by readers.

<https://www.lds.org/bc/content/ldsorg/magazine/Friend/FriendWritersGuidelines_Winter2014.pdf>

**GEMS Girls' Clubs** is a non-denominational, non-profit, Christian organization

GEM’S Girl’s Club **Sparkle**: 1-3 grade (**not accepting submissions**, 3-4-2019)

Sparkle Magazine is filled with fun games, puzzles, crafts, stories, and poems that are fresh and help girls discover who God is and how He works in His world and their lives. For girls ages 6 to 8. Sparkle Magazine is published 6 times per year with issues sent every other month.

<https://gemsgc.org/writers-guideline-sparkle-magazine/>

GEM’S Girl’s Club **Shine Brightly** 4-6 grade (**not accepting submissions**, 3-4-2019)

SHINE brightly Magazine reaches 4th-6th grade girls with the truth of God’s love and the life-changing story of the Gospel. Through stories and activities, girls everywhere learn their value to God and are encouraged to share this truth with others. It’s not easy being a girl today, but SHINE brightly equips girls to handle tough stuff and to know they’re not alone.

<https://gemsgc.org/shine-brightly-writers-guideline/>

**Guide Magazine**, 7th Day Adventists, targets ages 10-14

Guide is a Christian story magazine primarily for readers ages 10-14. The 32-page, four-color publication is published weekly by the [Pacific Press Publishing Association](http://www.pacificpress.com/). Our mission is to show readers, through stories that illustrate Bible truth, how to walk with God now and forever.

<https://www.guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines>

**Insight Magazine**, 7th Day Adventists, targets ages 13-19

(Not accepting submissions, 3-28-2019)

Insight's mission is to reach the full spectrum of Seventh-day Adventist teenagers with a magazine that helps them grow in a friendship with God; solve life's problems; choose positive Christian values and principles to live by; provide an Internet forum for discussion and interaction with other SDA teens. These goals will be met through editorials, true dramatic stories, readers' letters, devotionals, and advice columns.

<http://www.insightmagazine.org/aboutus/index.asp>

**Just 4 Kids,** targets ages 7-12

Just 4 Kids Magazine is a magazine designed for families with toddlers to teens,
Just 4 Kids Magazine offers wholesome readings that teach about God's love, His Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Bible. Each page of Just 4 Kids Magazine affirms a child's self-worth. Included are fun and exciting puzzles, games, stories, poems, recipes, colorful pictures, scripture readings, Bible Stories and family devotions. The magazine is published monthly and includes a wide variety of materials. There are no advertisements.

<http://just4kidsmagazine.com/writer_guidelines.html>

**The Kids Ark**, targets ages 6-10

This ezine is looking for fiction and nonfiction for readers from six to ten years old. The word count must be 650 words or less. The issues are themed and they are looking for "engaging, exciting, and adventurous stories that are applicable to the issue’s theme." Stories should "teach children biblical principles." Stories can be contemporary, historical or science fiction and involve characters of "various races and ethnic backgrounds."

<https://thekidsark.com/guidelines.htm>

**Nature’s Friend Magazine**, targets ages 8-16

Nature *Friend* Magazine is a creation-based, monthly nature magazine for children that the whole family will enjoy. Each issue costs less than one fast-food meal, feeds the whole family, and the calories are lower! Nature Friend is free of external advertisements.

<https://www.naturefriendmagazine.com/index.pl?linkid=12;class=gen>

**Our Little Friend**, 7th Day Adventists, targets ages 1-6

*Our Little Friend*® (OLF) has been published continuously since 1890; *Primary Treasure*® (PT) since 1957. These are spiritually oriented magazines written for children (see below for age levels). They are given each week to the children who attend Sabbath School (like Sunday School) at a Seventh-day Adventist Church. We help children through the vehicle of true stories

understand their infinite value to Jesus, their Creator and Redeemer; learn how to respond to God; show love to their family and friend; and serve others in their world.

<http://primarytreasure.com/for-writers/> (same guidelines as Primary Treasure)

**Pockets Magazine**, United Methodist, targets ages 6-12

Designed for 6- to 12-year-olds, Pockets magazine teaches about God’s love and presence in life. The content includes fiction, scripture stories, puzzles and games, poems, recipes, colorful art, activities, and scripture readings. Freelance submissions of stories, poems, recipes, puzzles and games, and activities are welcome. The magazine is published monthly (except in February).

<https://pockets.upperroom.org/write-for-us/>

**Primary Treasure,** 7th Day Adventists, targets ages 6-9

(See *Our Little Friend*)

<http://primarytreasure.com/for-writers/>

**St. Mary’s Messenger**, Catholic, targets ages 7-12

St. Mary's Messenger is a full-sized, full-color, stand-alone, 32-page, quarterly Catholic magazine for kids, ages 7 to 12. **Kris Weipert, Senior Editor** St. Mary's Messenger helps enlighten, entertain and educate children about their Catholic faith in a fun and interesting way. It is filled with stories and articles, activities, science, history, crafts, and literature.

<https://stmarysmessenger.com/submission-guidelines/>

**St. Mary's Messenger Magazine Submission Guideline Overview/Update 2019**

Please send all submissions via email (do not mail with SASE).

Put SUBMISSION in the subject line.

Due to the increased number of submissions, we can no longer respond
unless a submission is selected for publishing.  If so, we will
contact you by email to verify.  Some selections are not published but
requested for hold in case we decide to use in future.

Fees are negotiated upon selection.  We try to pay something, but
cannot compete with industry rates and keep going.  Our main resources
go to printing and distribution/mailing costs which continue to rise
(especially postage).

Our content is not exclusively Catholic, especially fictional stories,
poems, games, activities, artwork etc…but please review the detailed
guidelines on what is accepted and appropriate for our readers (ages
7-12).

Do not worry about submission deadlines to make a particular issue
time/theme.  Send what you have when you have it!!!  Often, we get the
perfect submission as we're about to finish a particular issue, so it
is never too early or too late.

We utilize existing material that has been published elsewhere when
reprint permission is allowed.  We very often will take a piece in an
adult magazine and summarize or simplify for  children.  Especially
true accounts or historical articles about the Catholic faith.  It
helps us a lot if you can go ahead and arrange permission, proper
sourcing, etc… including photos or artwork that may go with your
submission.

If you have not heard from us within 3-6 months, please feel free to
submit elsewhere and if you do get published, go ahead and ask for
reprint permission.  Don't hesitate to re send to us, we may still use
it if published elsewhere.

COVER LETTERS:  Please don't send a "sales letter", your work will
stand on its own.  Just give us the basic description, a short
synopsis of the content, title, word count, type (story, activity,
poem, fiction/non-fiction, etc…)  It does help to have know if it has
been published before and to have a bio on the author/illustrator.

**CHRISTIAN BOOK PUBLISHERS**

(who accept unagented submissions)

**Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, books for all ages**

Offering board books, picture books, middle readers, novels, nonfiction, and religious titles for children and young adults, we at EBYR seek to engage young minds with books — books that are honest, wise, and hopeful; books that delight us with their storyline, characters, or good humor; books that inform, inspire, and entertain. (Hard copy submissions only through the regular mail.) <https://www.eerdmans.com/Pages/YoungReaders/EBYR-Guidelines.aspx>

**Flyaway Books**, **picture books only**

We are currently considering manuscripts for picture books only. We are seeking manuscripts that reflect themes of diversity, inclusivity, self-esteem, kindness, compassion, care for the environment, social/emotional challenges for children and families, and social justice/contemporary issues. These would be appropriate for a general trade market and found in bookstores, libraries, and public and private schools. We are also open to manuscripts appropriate for religious schools, churches (primarily mainline Protestant, progressive evangelical, and emergent), and families that value faith both inside and outside of a church setting. These include retellings of stories from the Bible, stories about religious characters or seasons, and contemporary stories with religious themes.

<https://www.flyawaybooks.com/submissions>

**Group Publishing, Nonfiction for Children’s Ministry**

We are a publishing team of people who create experiences with one goal in mind: to help people grow in relationship with Jesus and each other. We create an endless stream of ideas, lessons, events, and service opportunities for the ever-transforming world of church ministry. Publishing children’s ministry books that feature: sermons & worship ideas, service project ideas, Bible lessons & Bible-based activities, crafts, object lessons, creative Bible story presentations (NO FICTION), devotions, game ideas or books (not puzzles, R-bits, board games, or coloring books), plays & skits (as a book, not individually), leadership, family ministry, and volunteer management. Accepts freelance and assigns work.

<https://grouppublishingps.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/211878258-Submissions>

**JourneyForth Books, Fiction and Nonfiction for children and teens**

JourneyForth Books publishes fiction and nonfiction that reflects a worldview based solidly on the Bible and that encourages Christians to live out their faith. Located in Greenville, South Carolina, JourneyForth is a division of Bob Jones University Press (BJU) Press, which publishes of a full line of K–12 textbooks for Christian schools and homeschools.

<https://www.bjupress.com/books/freelance.php>

**Lifetree, Fiction and Nonfiction for children and adults**

Lifetree is an imprint of Group Publishing that focuses on serving individuals in their everyday faith walk. Group Publishing is a nondenominational publisher who has served churches with resources for Sunday school, vacation Bible school, Bible study, mission trips, and more for over 40 years. <https://www.mylifetree.com/writer-submissions/>

**ADDITONAL RESOURCES**

American Christian Fiction Writers

<https://www.acfw.com>

*The Christian Writers Market Guide*. <https://christianwritersmarketguide.com>

“15 pieces of Writing Advice from C.S. Lewis” by Justin Taylor, March 26, 2016

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/15-pieces-of-writing-advice-from-c-s-lewis/>

*The Giant Book of Bible Fingerplays for Preschoolers* Sample download by Amy Houts (Table of Contents, Introduction, Sample page, and “Get Started Guide” to Fingerplays)

<http://downloads.group.com/gp/download/samples/9781470744786/9781470744786.pdf>

*God’s Protection Covers Me* Activity Packet by Amy Houts

<https://www.beamingbooks.com/media/downloads/9781506448565%20GodsProtection_ActivityPacket.pdf>

Max Lucado, Writing Corner

[*https://maxlucado.com/writing-corner-tips-tools-aspiring-authors-artists/*](https://maxlucado.com/writing-corner-tips-tools-aspiring-authors-artists/)

*SCBWI: THE BOOK: The Essential Guide to Publishing for Children* (for SCBWI members) <https://www.scbwi.org/online-resources/the-book/>

Today’s Christian Living: Writers Resource Guide

<http://todayschristianliving.org/s4-features/c17-features/christian-writers-groups/>

Harold Underdown, The Purple Crayon includes a variety of children’s writing resources

<http://www.underdown.org>

Writing for Your Life Resources

<https://writingforyourlife.com/services-resources/>

**EXAMPLE OF A COVER LETTER FOR POCKETS MAGAZINE ARTICLE**

(See below for email submissions)

June 28, 2010

Lynn W. Gilliam, editor

Pockets

PO Box 340004

Nashville TN 37203-0004

Dear Ms. Gilliam,

If you were choosing a gift to bring to the birthday party of eight-year-old twin sisters, Elle and Anna Miller, you wouldn’t go to a toy store. Instead, you would stop by a pet store and choose heavy duty collars and leashes. What’s up? These gifts are for a new kind of birthday party.

See enclosed for an article tentatively titled, “A New Kind of Party,” summarizing Elle and Anna’s mission to donate supplies to the local animal shelter.Please consider it for publication in your *Kids with a Mission* column in *Pockets Magazine*. The article fits with the theme for July, 2011 theme of “[Sorry I don’t have this information].”

Enclosed are photos illustrating the article and the photo permission statement. Both of our families attend the First United Methodist Church in Maryville, Missouri.

My poem, “I Listen in Church,” was published in *Programs for Children*, Standard Publishing, 2009. Our Vacation Bible School this summer is less than a month away. I’ll be helping with crafts and snacks this year.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you. Enclosed is an SASE for your convenience.

Sincerely,

[skipped 5 lines]

Amy Houts

[Street Address]

[Phone]

**For email cover or query letters:**

Send the magazine’s email address

Follow guidelines related to sending the manuscript in the body of the email or as an attachment

Include your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address

In the subject line, describe the manuscript type (fiction, poem, game, etc.) title in CAPS, and theme (if applicable). For example ‘Fiction, THE TORNADO, Courage.’”

**EXAMPLE OF A QUERY EMAIL (AND REPLY) FOR A NONFICTION ARTICLE**

Emailed editor of Children’s Ministry Magazine January 23, 2018

**Subject Line:** Query: Article, "How to Use Fingerplays in your Sunday School Classroom"

Hi Jennifer,

Last fall, a retired Methodist minister, Connie Ury, bought my Bible Fingerplay book at our church's Women's Retreat. The Sunday after--in front of the whole congregation--during Children's Time, Connie asked everyone to repeat my "Sermon on the Mount" fingerplay. While I was happy Connie was using my book, it got me thinking about writing an article on fingerplays.

I don't think people (unless they have a background in teaching preschool) know what fingerplays are or how to use them effectively. If Connie would have known this, she would have only used the fingerplay with young children, not older children or adults. She would have said the words cheerily (or sing them), not slowly and deliberately, and she would have used it as a transition to another activity or story instead of the focus of the whole Children's Time.

I am proposing an article either to print in Children's Ministry Magazine or in one of your CMM newsletters. I would be happy to write the article on spec and would consider writing it without compensation (to help in promoting my book, *The Giant Book of Bible Fingerplays for Preschoolers*). I would like to mention my book and other Group books that include fingerplays as a resource at the end of the article. What do you think? Are you interested?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings,

~ Amy

[Note: Because Jennifer was my book editor, I didn’t need to tell her about my writing credits. I explained the rationale for writing the article. She broadened the topic.]

I received a reply on April 12, 2018

Hi Amy!

I hope this finds you well. I'm wondering if you'd be up for some writing for the magazine?

For our Sept/Oct issue, I'd like to do a feature on creating "radical hospitality" for preschoolers--meaning they get a great, welcoming, age-appropriate experience from the moment they enter to the time they leave. It would examine what that means (from room setup to volunteer training to lesson plan, etc.). I'd also like to do a section on age-appropriate storytelling and interactive Bible learning, with reliance on your expertise. We could spotlight how fingerplays are a big part of that and why they're so effective. That article would be due on June 1 and would need to be about 2000 words. Payment for it would be $400.

I hope you're enjoying the start of spring! Thanks for considering.

Best,

[The final article title: The Perfect Place for Preschoolers]

**EXAMPLE OF A PHOTO PERMISSIONS PAGE**

**Photo Permissions Form**

I give Amy Houts permission to print my child’s photo in an article to be published in the September/October 2018 issue of Children’s Ministry Magazine tentatively titled, “How to Create the Perfect Space for Preschoolers,” which will discuss welcoming preschoolers into Sunday School.

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(your signature) (date)

Your contact information:

(Please print)

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(phone number)

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(street address)

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