

Chicago Parent

Writers' Guidelines

Overview

Chicago Parent is a parenting news magazine. We offer a lively editorial mix with a distinctly local focus and a "we're all in this together" spirit. We seek to include new voices, but we use only local writers. Articles submitted by writers who have not previously written for *Chicago Parent* are on speculation.

Short Stuff is the port of entry for new writers. If you haven't written for *Chicago Parent*, chances are we'll ask you to start here. It is a section in the front of the magazine that looks at local people, places, groups and things of interest to families. We are always looking for breaking news and relevant issues as well. We ask first-time writers to pitch us an idea. They may be asked to submit a full article on speculation, with no guarantee of publication.

Reader Essays are another way to get published. These parent essays, written on speculation, are told in first-person in 400 to 600 words, with a provided photograph. We receive about 15-20 essays a week so the essays selected usually have a lingering message, humor or other traits that set them apart.

Our larger feature articles tackle a wide range of timely topics for local families, including issues relating to childcare and education, balancing work and family and handling the everyday joys and challenges of parenting. We ask writers to use the best experts on a subject—national and local, but almost every story should use local parent voices and children when possible. And we want a news peg—a reason for doing the story.

Our regular columns are written by freelancers who have a long-standing relationship with *Chicago Parent*. They are **Healthy Finances**, a look at teaching children about money; **Parenting isn't for sissies**, down-to-earth advice by a licensed family therapist that touches on everyday issues; **Fab Mama**, a page for the modern mom on the go who wants the latest trends and crazes; **Good Sense Eating**, smart eating advice for families, including easy recipes; the **Calendar**, our comprehensive guide of family events; and **Kid Culture**, where we review books, videos, music and the arts.

Basics

Queries and Pitches

We do not reprint stories. E-mail queries or pitches to Assistant Editor Kate Pancero at kpancero@chicagoparent.com. Please include your phone number, address and e-mail.

Payment

Short Stuff articles are 300-400 words in length, payment is \$25-\$50, depending on the reporting. Reader essays pay \$100. The average feature story is 800 to 1,500 words in length. Payment varies depending on the writer's experience and the relationship with *Chicago Parent*, but begins

at \$100 for a one-page story of 800 words. We pay on publication. Checks are disbursed on the first day of the month of the publication. Invoices are necessary.

Illustrations

Chicago Parent also buys illustrations to accompany articles. Payment depends upon the quality.

Rights

We buy one-time print publication rights for *Chicago Parent* with exclusive first North American publishing rights as well as electronic rights allowing us to place the material on our Web site. If we reprint an article in our semi-annual *Chicago Baby* or quarterly *Going Places*, we will pay extra.

Submissions

Articles should be submitted electronically. Text files may be sent to us at kpancero@chicagoparent.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail. If we publish it, an invoice with a social security number is needed.

Kill Fee

For commissioned material; typically we pay 10 percent of the manuscript fee. There is no kill fee for first-time submissions, even when commissioned.

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