Press Pack

*a programme resource for Junior Section and Company Section Boys*

**Aim:** To help the children and young people to become news reporters.

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**Activity 1**

**Becoming a Press Pack Member**

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<tr>
<th>Time:</th>
<th>Group Size:</th>
<th>Age Range:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 mins</td>
<td>maximum 5</td>
<td>7 – 15 year olds</td>
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**Aim:** To introduce the young people to Newsround and becoming a member of the Press Pack.

**Introduction:**

Newsround is a popular BBC programme that provides reports and comments, for and from children and young people, about what is going on in the world around them. The Press Pack is an internet club based around the news and reporting it. Children and young people can sign up to become a Press Pack member, and gain points for everything they do on the site whether it's a journalism tutorial or playing one of the games. If they write and submit a report there is a chance it could be published on the internet or even get on Newsround. There are also amazing competitions where the winners will get to report on special assignments, or if they gain 1,000 points they could even get the chance to be a Guest Editor for Newsround and boss around the real Newsround team for a day!

**Equipment:**

- Computers with internet access
- Video player
- Pen
- Flip chart pad

**Instructions:**

- Ask the children and young people if they have ever watched Newsround?
- Play a clip recorded from the TV or website.
- Give the group some time to go on the Newsround (http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews) and Press Pack (http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/presspack) websites and explore.
- Draw their attention to the Skills Room.
- Ask the group to think about something interesting that they have done recently? Would they like to write a report on it?

**Tips/ Advice!**

- Don't forget Sportsround a sporting version of the news programme.
- If you do not have internet access where you meet go onto the website and look at some of the tutorials in the Skills Room and download some quizzes.

**Safety Issues/ Risk Assessment:**

Make sure that the content viewed on the internet is appropriate for those viewing it.
Activity 2

Writing a report

Time: 15 mins x 3  
Group Size: maximum 5  
Age Range: 7 – 15 year olds

Aim:
To get the children and young people to write and submit a press pack report

Introduction:
You need to prepare a list of topics that the young people can write about. However it should be based around their experience. Here are some good ideas to get you started . . .

- A typical BB night
- A special BB night
- 125 Celebration event
- Being a fireman/ policeman for the day

The Press Pack website even suggests some reports, e.g. Do you celebrate Burns Night? Are you in a flooded area? Do you have any experiences of knife crime? Have you been to an event? Have you been part of something unusual or something cool? Maybe you've been to a gig or met a celebrity? Do you have an issue you feel strongly about? Or is there something else happening in your area that would make a good story and you want to tell the world about it!

Wouldn’t it be great if during 2008 Newsround was flooded with positive reports about BB from its young members?

Equipment:
- Pen
- Paper
- Computers

Instructions:
Tell the group to follow these simple ideas from the Press Pack website when writing their report . . .

- Research your facts A journalist must be sure the information in their reports is correct! If they get the details of a story wrong, nobody will trust what they say. That's why doing research is an important part of the job! As a Press Packer you can never check a fact too often, whether it's a name, a date or something someone has said.
- Do interviews It's helpful to speak to the people you are writing about. They know the story first-hand and will give you important detailed information. Remember, you must only interview people you already know like teachers, BB Leaders, friends and family members!
- The internet A good starting point is the search engine on the CBBC homepage: www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc. A lot of journalists use the internet to do research, but information can sometimes be out of date or wrong.
- Organise a brainstorm Two heads are better than one so get together with a group of friends to share your story ideas. You could talk about the most interesting topics in the news, creative ways of using photographs or how to make a report more interesting to read.
- Keep it simple Remember who you're writing for. Your report will be read by lots of children and young people around the world, so make sure they'll understand what you've written about. It's a good idea to get one of your friends to read your report before you send it in. If you've written anything they don't understand, let them help you make things clearer.
- Style and layout Break your report up into easy chunks by using paragraphs. Stop when you've written about 150 words (or 15 sentences) and then go back and read it through. Try and make each paragraph explain a different part of what you want to say. Your readers will be able to understand you better if you explain things in short and clear sentences.
Try breaking the story down into questions to help you think about it more clearly,
e.g.**Are you in a flooded area?** - How have you been affected by them? Have lots of roads closed in your area? Is your backyard full of water? Or is your family preparing for the worst by putting down sandbags to protect your home?
or
**Do you have any experiences of knife crime?** Have you ever carried a knife or been hurt by one? Or do you know someone who has? Are knives a problem where you live or at your school?

**Tips/ Advice!**
Don’t forget to submit your report. You might also like to send a copy to your local newspaper, or the BB Gazette.

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**Activity 3**

**Photo Story**

**Time:** 15 mins x 2  
**Group Size:** maximum 5  
**Age Range:** 7 – 15 year olds

**Aim:** To get the children and young people to take and submit a press pack photo story

**Equipment:**
- Digital cameras
- Computer

**Instructions:**
First of all try to get the group to think of a story that they want to tell. A picture story works best when there is a beginning, middle and end to the event you're photographing. The pictures in your story also need captions.

Tell the group that a picture can tell a thousand words, suggest that they follow these handy hints about how to make their photos a cut above the rest:
- Only use photos which illustrate the main points of the story.
- Try to use close-ups as well as wide shots to make it more interesting.
- Don’t try to include everything in one photo.
- Make sure that the photo makes sense what does it say to you?
- If possible try to use a digital camera; not only do you get to see your photo instantly (to see if you like it) but you’re then able to e-mail it straight to us!
- Don’t show brand names unless the story involves that particular brand you might find yourself in trouble because of **copyright law**.
- Get permission from anyone you photograph to make sure they're happy to have their photo taken.

**Tips/ Advice!**
Remember, the best photos don't always happen first time so get snapping! A good test is showing the photos you’ve taken to a friend – if they can follow the story, without you having to explain it with words, then you've cracked it!

**Safety Issues/ Risk Assessment:**
Make sure that you have permission to use photographs from the people in them.

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The best and most effective publicity for the BB is in the local news about the great work a local company is doing. So we want to challenge every company to send in at least one article by their young people to their local newspaper or get one young person onto a local radio station telling their stories about the BB.