



# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
School lunches

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Founded by Betty Debnam

## Let's Go Bowling!



photo by Proggie

### Mini Fact:

The highest score someone can get in bowling is 300, which is called a perfect game.

Did you know National Bowling Day is Saturday, Aug. 13? Many bowling centers celebrate this holiday with promotions for both kids and adults who bowl that day.

Lace up your bowling shoes, select the best ball for you, and get ready to have some fun, because The Mini Page takes a look at bowling this week.

### Bowling basics

Bowling is a sport that involves rolling a ball down a 60-foot lane and knocking down as many pins as possible. A bowler gets two tries to topple all 10 pins per **frame**.

A **strike** happens when a bowler knocks down all 10 pins in one roll. A **spare** means a bowler left pins standing on their first try and then knocked over the remaining pins on the second (final) roll of the frame.

A **gutter** is on each side of the lane. It's like a little trench. If a bowler's ball goes into a gutter, they get a score of zero for that roll.



photo by Eric Ward

Sometimes kids use bumpers when they are learning to bowl. These are like guardrails that keep the ball on the lane so it doesn't go into a gutter.

### Bowling balls

Bowling centers have a designated area somewhere in the building where a bunch of balls are located. These are called **house balls**, and they're available for anyone to use.



photo by Andrew Prickett

An important thing to keep in mind when selecting a house ball is choosing a weight that is comfortable for you.

Sometimes when people bowl regularly, they'll purchase their own bowling balls and shoes from a **pro shop**, which is a business that specializes in selling bowling equipment.

### Competing

Some families like to bowl together for fun as a hobby, some people bowl in leagues and others bowl in competitions.

Leagues are available at bowling centers for kids and adults, and sometimes kids and adults bowl together. Leagues offer bowlers a chance to compete weekly, often in a fun, relaxing learning atmosphere.

From leagues to tournaments, there are many opportunities in bowling for young bowlers — even in elementary school — to earn scholarships for college and trade schools.

### Bowling pins

When a person walks into a bowling center, they might think it's noisy inside. That's probably because of the balls rolling into the pins and crashing loudly.

Bowling pins are made of wood covered with a plastic material. The plastic is painted, and a glossy finish is applied.

Sometimes you'll notice black marks on the pins. The marks are from the pins flying around and getting knocked down all the time.



photo by Dwayne Madden

A **pinsetter** is an automatic device that sets the pins on the **pin deck** at the end of the lane after each ball. Pins stand in nearly the exact same position every time due to the reliability of the pinsetter.

Before there were automatic pinsetters, kids, often called **pin boys**, were responsible for setting up the pins one by one and returning the balls to bowlers after they rolled. This could be a dangerous job, as a pin or ball could strike a pin boy and injure them.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [kidsconnect.com/sports/bowling/](http://kidsconnect.com/sports/bowling/)

### At the library:

- "The Alley Gator Bowling Book" by Joe Lacey
- "The Prankster Strikes at League" by H.A.M. Westring

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of bowling are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- BALL, BOWLING,
- BUMPER, FRAME,
- GUTTER, HOBBY,
- HOLIDAY, LANE, LEAGUE,
- PIN, PINSETTER,
- SCHOLARSHIP, SHOES,
- SHOP, SPARE, SPORT,
- STRIKE, TOURNAMENT.

N	R	E	P	M	U	B	G	J	K	C	P	Y	H	J
A	D	G	L	R	E	T	T	U	G	W	H	O	A	Z
Y	B	B	O	H	P	S	T	R	I	K	E	S	H	Q
S	S	P	A	R	E	K	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S
S	E	D	S	O	T	O	U	R	N	A	M	E	N	T
H	M	B	P	I	N	S	E	T	T	E	R	K	C	E
O	A	A	Y	G	N	I	L	W	O	B	L	A	N	E
E	R	L	P	I	S	P	O	R	T	Z	X	P	T	Y
S	F	L	F	Z	Y	R	L	E	A	G	U	E	I	N
C	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S	H	I	P	L	C	N

## Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy loves to get new books from the library. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- exclamation mark
- letter H
- sock
- bandage
- letter D
- letter A
- word MINI
- letter T
- pumpkin
- olive
- heart
- musical note
- acorn
- letter M
- ladder
- letter J
- mitten
- banana
- number 3
- kite
- lips
- ax

## Mini Jokes



**Bria:** How quiet is a bowling alley?

**Brandon:** So quiet that you can hear a pin drop!

## Eco Note



Panamanian researchers say they have discovered a dazzling red salamander in one of the country's cloud forests that is new to science. The amphibian was dubbed the Chiriquí fire salamander after it was found in La Amistad International Park, which Panama shares with Costa Rica. Its Talamanca mountain range is one of the least-explored regions of Central America. The salamander lives in a very small high-altitude habitat in the park.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for bowling league scores and news about National Bowling Day.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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