

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
do well in school

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2024-2025

December 2024

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Have a contest with your child. Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
- 2. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
- 3. Post a list on your refrigerator of contact numbers your child should call in an emergency. Role-play what to say.
- 4. Ask about an inexpensive activity that your child would like to make an annual family tradition. If possible, start it!
- 5. At breakfast, find an interesting word in the dictionary. Challenge family members to use it three times during the day.
- 6. Give your child a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.
- 7. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for kids your child's age.
- 8. Get out a large piece of white paper. Ask your child to draw or paint seasonal scenes. Use the paper to wrap gifts.
- 9. Use math to give instructions. For example, ask your child to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
- 10. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a classmate or teacher this week.
- 11. Turn off screen devices tonight. Read or play games as a family instead.
- 12. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse. Together, practice making change.
- 13. With your child, think of examples of *onomatopoeia* (words that sound like what they mean), such as *buzz*, *hiss* and *thunk*.
- 14. Trace around your elementary schooler on a big piece of paper. Have your child research and draw what human insides look like.
- 15. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes. Decorate your windows.
- 16. Look at family photos together. How many relatives can your child name?
- 17. Enjoy some physical activity as a family.
- 18. Hide an object and provide three easy clues to find it. When your child is successful, offer praise for following directions.
- 19. Pay your child a specific compliment today.
- 20. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 21. Today is the *winter solstice*, the darkest day of the year. Give everyone in the family a flashlight so they can read in bed.
- 22. Try blowing bubbles with your child in freezing weather. How does the cold temperature affect them?
- 23. Ask your child to help you make dinner.
- 24. Read a poem with your child today.
- 25. Have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.
- 26. Let your child see you enjoying reading. Say, "I love to read!"
- 27. Do you know a student who is home from college? Ask the student to talk with your child about what college is like.
- 28. Watch or read the weather forecast together today. Locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- 29. Help your child write and mail a letter to a friend.
- 30. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 31. Help your child make a time line of the past year.

January 2025

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- 1. With your child, read the label on a food your family eats regularly. What nutrition does it provide? How much sugar is in it?
- 2. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.
- 3. Help your child look around your home for things that come from plants (food, clothing, wooden items).
- 4. Plan an indoor campout. Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and read scary stories.
- 5. Make a chore chart together. List chores your child is responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 6. Discuss people your child admires. Ask why your student admires them.
- 7. Hold a family meeting. Discuss everyone's recent achievements.
- 8. When you watch TV or videos together, ask your child questions: "Was what that person did a smart idea?" "What would you have done?"
- 9. Today's news is history in the making. Watch the news with your child.
- 10. With your child, make a list of favorite activities you did together last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do some again this year.
- 11. Ask your child to read to you while you cook.
- 12. Notice trees with your child. Which are *evergreen*? Which are *deciduous* (trees that shed their leaves)?
- 13. What skill would you and your child like to learn? Look for a how-to book or an online video.
- 14. Ask your child to give you a news report about the school day today. What's the lead story?
- 15. With your eyes shut, take turns with your child describing the sounds you hear.
- 16. Start a family savings jar. Decide together on what the goal will be and how each person will contribute.
- 17. After dinner, have a family sing-along. Ask family members to share their favorite songs.
- 18. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- 19. Challenge your child to write a poem or story from the point of view of a tree.
- 20. Make a crossword puzzle to help your child review vocabulary words.
- 21. Challenge your child to invent a delicious drink, such as "banana hot chocolate."
- 22. Take a book along when you go places with your child. Read together while waiting for the bus or at the doctor's office.
- 23. Ask your child to help you organize something, such as a closet.
- 24. At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.
- 25. Watch a nature program with your child.
- 26. Choose a recipe from another country or culture. Prepare it together.
- 27. Demonstrate how to take your child's pulse. Have your child jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?
- 28. Ask your child, "How can people learn from their mistakes?"
- 29. Help your child write a letter to a favorite living author.
- 30. Decide on a location anywhere in the world. Take turns with your child telling one thing you would like to see there.
- 31. When planning your child's activities, remember that kids need plenty of downtime to think, imagine and play.

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February 2025

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Play My Day, Your Day with your child. Each of you ask questions about the other's day.
- 2. With your child, learn how to say "I love you" in three other languages.
- 3. Have your child pretend to be a character from a book. Ask questions until you figure out who your elementary schooler is.
- 4. Look at photos from a year ago. Discuss how much your child has grown and learned since then!
- 5. Check ads for items with prices ending in 97, 98 or 99 cents. Have your child round off and estimate—how much would four of the items cost?
- 6. Look for books to read aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
- 7. Test observation skills. Can your child describe someone that just passed by on the street?
- 8. Teach a card game to your child. Play it with the whole family tonight.
- 9. Make today punctuation day. See how many types of punctuation you and your child come across. What does each do?
- 10. Tuck a valentine in your child's lunch every day this week. Write a special message on each.
- 11. Do body arithmetic. Ask your child, "How much do your fingers, knees, toes and nose add up to?"
- 12. Exchange notes with your child instead of talking for part of the day.
- 13. When your child brings home a test, talk about what your student got right before discussing errors. What can your child learn from both?
- 14. At bedtime tonight, tell a story about yourself when you were your child's age.
- 15. Let your child stay up a few minutes later tonight to read in bed.
- 16. Visit the library. Check out a book about electricity to read together. Where does it come from? How do people control it?
- 17. Ask about the nicest thing a friend or classmate has ever done for your child.
- 18. Use yarn and a hanger to help your child turn snapshots of family members into a mobile. Hang it where everyone can see it.
- 19. Save the seeds from a fruit you've eaten. Help your child plant them in a paper cup and place it on the windowsill. Water and see if they grow.
- 20. Choose a number between 1 and 12. Have your child list things that come in that number (12 eggs, 4 corners on a square, etc).
- 21. Show enthusiasm about things your child is learning, even if the facts are not new to you. "That's so cool! Tell me more!"
- 22. Look at car ads in the newspaper or online. Encourage your child to design and name a new car.
- 23. Draw window pictures with your child. Look out the window, and draw what you see!
- 24. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. If you are a runner, take your elementary schooler for a short jog.
- 25. Have a silent supper. During dessert, have family members share what they were thinking about.
- 26. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 27. Talk with your child about courage and people who show it.
- 28. Choose your words carefully when speaking about your child to others. Avoid making negative comments if your child could overhear.

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