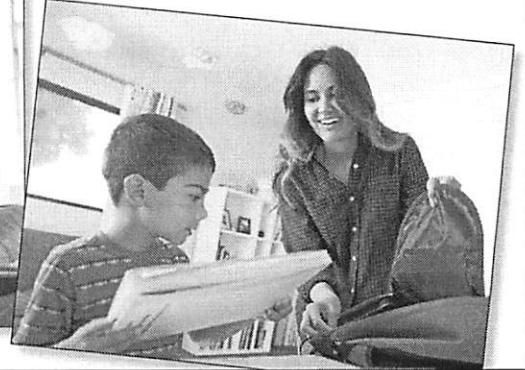
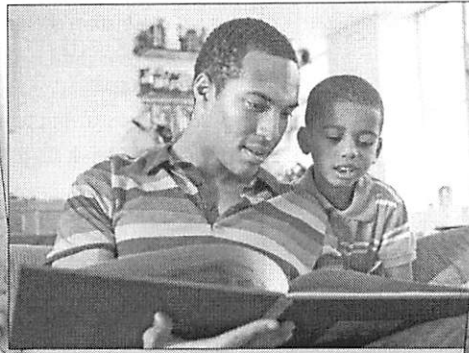


Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school*



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2020

September 2020

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

- 1. Visit an interesting place in your town this week. Then have your child create an ad to tell others about it.
- 2. Ask your child to read to you as you're cleaning up after a meal. Or read to your child as she cleans up!
- 3. Taste-test different types of apples with your child. Think of words to describe their tastes, such as *tart*, *sweet* and *mellow*.
- 4. Start a family savings jar. Have family members decide on what the goal will be and how they will each contribute.
- 5. Get some exercise with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy, such as riding bikes or tossing a ball.
- 6. Take a walk and look for signs of autumn. See if your child can identify any of the trees you pass as you go.
- 7. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
- 8. Help your child find his best time to do homework. Some kids do best right after school, others after they have had a chance to blow off steam.
- 9. Help your child start a collection. Collecting can help children learn school skills such as organization and research.
- 10. Set aside a shelf or basket to store library books. You'll save money on overdue fines.
- 11. Ask your child to tell you something she learned today. Then tell her something you learned today.
- 12. Take turns picking a word and putting its letters in alphabetical order.
- 13. Have your child write a letter to a friend or relative telling about the beginning of the school year.
- 14. Help your child set a goal for the week. Write it down. Set one for yourself, too.
- 15. Glue a picture of your child to a piece of paper. Have him draw things around the picture that represent what is special about him.
- 16. Choose a Word of the Day. Challenge everyone to use it in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
- 17. Talk with your child about what it means to be a good sport.
- 18. Discuss three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family to say how they used math.
- 19. Hang a map of your state or province on the wall. Let your child use a highlighter to mark places she's visited.
- 20. Have a special one-on-one breakfast with your child.
- 21. Plan a digital device-free night. Play games or read instead.
- 22. Ask your child to estimate how many times he blinks in one minute. Then check!
- 23. Teach your child a practical skill, such as sewing on a button.
- 24. Choose a place in your home for items needed for school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each day.
- 25. Ask your child questions after reading. "Why do you think that character made that decision?" "What would you have done?"
- 26. Does your child know how to call 9-1-1 in an emergency? Practice what to say.
- 27. See if your child can tie a bow behind her back.
- 28. Create an gallery of your child's artwork. Rotate the display frequently.
- 29. Help your child make an audio recording of a story.
- 30. At dinner, share the best and the worst parts of your day. Give each person a turn to talk.

October 2020

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

- 1. Make an appointment to spend special time with your child this month and write it on your calendar.
- 2. Write your child's name vertically on a piece of paper. Have him use each letter in his name to begin a line of a poem.
- 3. Let your child see you reading for pleasure today.
- 4. Put on music and spend 15 minutes drawing or writing with your child. Let the music be your inspiration.
- 5. Ask your child how she helped others today.
- 6. Have your child teach you something he needs to learn for homework. It's a great way to reinforce what he's learning.
- 7. Ask your child, "What is one thing that makes you feel really excited?"
- 8. Today is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Develop a family plan in case of a fire in your home.
- 9. Make sure your child has access to basic reference resources (atlas, dictionary, thesaurus) either in book form or bookmarked online.
- 10. Plan a trip to a nearby museum, or visit one online.
- 11. Start a made-up story. "A woman opened the door. Standing on the doorstep was a" Let your child finish the story.
- 12. Jump rope together. How many jumps can your child do in a row?
- 13. Ask your child, "What are your three favorite songs?"
- 14. Have your child close her eyes. Make a sound, such as jingling keys. Challenge her to guess what you are doing.
- 15. Take a walk and collect pretty fallen leaves. Help your child put them between layers of clear self-stick paper to make place mats.
- 16. Choose a news story and learn more about it with your child.

- 17. Start a project with your child, such as building a model. Make plans to work on it regularly together.
- 18. Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
- 19. Have your child replace adjectives on a printed advertisement with their opposites.
- 20. Talk with your child about something he has done well today.
- 21. Consider giving your child an allowance. Discuss what it should be used for, such as buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 22. Choose a number, then have your child list all the things she can think of that come in that number.
- 23. Give your child a calendar. Teach him to use it to write down information about homework, tests and school activities.
- 24. Ask your child to imagine life 150 years ago. How about 150 years in the future?
- 25. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 26. Read a book aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
- 27. Help your child figure out the average height of the people in your family (add heights and divide the total by the number of people).
- 28. Pick a category. Ask your child to pick a letter. How many items from the category can you both think of that begin with that letter?
- 29. Let your child plan dinner tonight. How many food groups can she include?
- 30. Have a contest: Who can name the most parts of the body? (Organs count, too.)
- 31. Ask your child, "What is the best job in the whole world?"

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November 2020

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

- 1. Help your child create a joke collection. Fill a notebook with jokes you each hear and read.
- 2. Read an assignment with your child. Then ask him to tell you about it in his own words.
- 3. Listen for cities, states and countries mentioned on TV. Together, locate them on a map.
- 4. Help your child make her own dictionary with spelling or vocabulary words.
- 5. Fold paper towels into parts. Start with halves, then fourths, eighths and sixteenths. Let your child use a marker to label the fractions.
- 6. Resist the urge to schedule every minute of your child's day. Kids need down time to think, imagine and play.
- 7. Think about the rules you have for your child. Are they age-appropriate?
- 8. Ask your child to draw a picture of winter.
- 9. Invent a word with your child. Write down a silly definition.
- 10. Ask your child what he would do if he were invisible for a day.
- 11. Say a number, such as 162. Then have your child write it in words: one hundred sixty-two.
- 12. Talk with your child about a choice you've made. Be sure to talk about the consequences of that choice.
- 13. Choose a recipe from another culture. Prepare it with your child.
- 14. Trace your child's hand on paper. Together, think of ways to be a helping hand. Write ideas on the drawing.
- 15. Time different things you and your child regularly do in a day. An awareness of how long tasks take is key for time management.

- 16. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 17. Play a word game with your child.
- 18. Watch the news together and choose a Person of the Week. Read more about that person.
- 19. Talk with your child about how doing homework helps students remember what they are learning.
- 20. Have your child write directions for making a sandwich. Then follow them exactly. Were the results what she intended?
- 21. Show your child 10 objects. Have him close his eyes while you remove one. When he opens his eyes, can he guess what's missing?
- 22. Ask your child to help you organize something, such as a closet.
- 23. Make up a song featuring your child's name.
- 24. Play store. Ask your child to figure how much tax you will owe on your purchases.
- 25. Name different types of punctuation with your child. Identify them in a newspaper or magazine.
- 26. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.
- 27. Watch a funny TV show with your child. Then have her draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 28. Tell your child three things that you love about him. Have him tell you three things that he loves about you.
- 29. Let your child quiz you about things she is learning in school.
- 30. Ask your child to name something he has done in his life that makes him feel proud.

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