

# Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help children  
prepare for school

Willingboro School District



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

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### Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Prepare for School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Help your child use strips of construction paper to make a chain.
- 2. Hide a small toy in a shoebox and tape the lid on. Invite your child to shake the box and try to guess what's inside as you give clues.
- 3. Let your child string uncooked pasta tubes to make a necklace.
- 4. Place light and heavy objects on the floor. Have your child blow on them. Which blow away? Why?
- 5. Have your child weigh himself and then a big toy. Which weighs more?
- 6. With your child, collect outdoor items such as twigs and grass. Then brush glue on a sheet of paper and let her arrange a "forest" collage.
- 7. Ask your child's opinion about something.
- 8. Praise your child for something he did today. Make your praise as specific as possible.
- 9. See if your child can draw a picture blindfolded.
- 10. Play "What am I?" with your child. Say, "I am big and spotted. I have a long neck and I live in Africa." A giraffe!
- 11. Give your child three unrelated toys to use together.
- 12. Visit the library with your child. Sit in a cozy chair in the children's section and read a few books together.
- 13. Declare a Device-Free Day. Read and play fun games instead.
- 14. Encourage independence. Place healthy snacks on a low refrigerator shelf and let your child help herself.
- 15. Ask your child to make up a story and tell it to you.
- 16. Set out different sizes of pots, along with their lids. Ask your child to put the correct lid on each pot.
- 17. Help your child do something nice for someone else.
- 18. Have a family movie night. Talk about what was *real* and what was *pretend* in the movie.
- 19. Link feelings with colors. Which color reminds your child of being happy? Sad? Angry? Jealous?
- 20. Give your child three pictures that show different steps of a task. Ask your child to put them in order.
- 21. Talk about opposites: *big* and *little*, *fast* and *slow*.
- 22. Write a letter of the alphabet. Think of things that begin with that letter and have your child draw some of them.
- 23. Read your child a story that is written in rhyme.
- 24. Look in the mirror together. Ask, "What color are your eyes? Your hair? How many hands do you have?"
- 25. Spend some time playing on the floor with your child.
- 26. Take your child outside for a "listening minute." Close your eyes and try to name the sounds you hear.
- 27. Play with puppets. Have a puppet ask your child his name, age and other facts he should know.
- 28. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and that you love her.
- 29. Try to keep a balloon aloft by batting it up with your child.
- 30. Tell your child a story. Ask him to listen for one word, like *dog*. Tell him to clap each time he hears the word.
- 31. Recreate a family tradition you enjoyed as a child.

**Helping Children Learn**®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

