

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children  
prepare for school*



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Start a chain of hearts. Cut out small hearts. Each day, write a reason you love your child on one and attach it to the chain.
- 2. Will your child start kindergarten in the fall? Find out when to register.
- 3. Make an I'm Bored Box. Fill it with craft activities and things to read.
- 4. Find out when the next children's event is at your local library. Mark it on the calendar and plan to attend.
- 5. As you do errands together, talk to your child about the different jobs people do.
- 6. Take a short walk with your child before bedtime. Take turns describing what it feels like outside.
- 7. Focus on polite behaviors at mealtimes, such as taking small bites and saying *please* and *thank you*.
- 8. Have a Device-Free Day. Read, play games or listen to music instead.
- 9. Show your child a new shape today.
- 10. Build memory skills. Say, "I went to the store and bought bananas." Ask your child to repeat what you said.
- 11. Read a story. Ask your child to tell you one thing about the beginning, one thing about the middle and one thing about the ending.
- 12. Call your local fire station and ask if you can schedule a visit with your child.
- 13. Cut the letters of your preschooler's name out of printed advertising. Ask your child to glue the letters to a piece of paper in the right order.
- 14. Take time to give your child an extra hug today. Don't forget to say, "I love you!"
- 15. Wrap an item in paper. Ask your child to guess what it is, then unwrap it to see if the guess was correct.
- 16. Does your child need some new books? Consider organizing a neighborhood book swap.
- 17. Visit a local historical site with your child.
- 18. Play catch with your child. Stand close and toss a large light ball back and forth.
- 19. Take turns naming things that are cold in winter.
- 20. Help your preschooler practice cutting with safety scissors. Have your child cut in a straight line and then a curve.
- 21. Write a number on a piece of paper. Let your child use clay to mold the same number.
- 22. Read a favorite book aloud as many times as your child wants.
- 23. Point out the sun's location in the morning and in the afternoon. Talk with your child about how the Earth moves around the sun.
- 24. Visit a playground where your child can run, jump and climb safely. These are important motor skills.
- 25. Help your child decorate paper plates and use them to make a hat.
- 26. Let your child use tweezers to pick up small items such as raisins. This builds muscles needed for writing.
- 27. Cut out letters from paper, felt and sandpaper. Have your child trace them with a finger as you name them together.
- 28. Give your child a spoon to use as a ruler. Together, measure items in your home. How many spoons long are they?
- 29. Ask your child to draw a picture about an abstract idea, such as *love*, *happiness* or *fear*.