

Daily Learning Planner

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



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Read a book of folktales with your child today.
- 2. Set aside time to work on craft projects together. Perhaps your child can give these as gifts.
- 3. Talk with your child about what it means to be courageous. Look for examples of people who demonstrate courage.
- 4. Make your own seasonal greeting cards. With your child, read some cards in stores for ideas, then write your own messages.
- 5. Make a paper chain to count down the number of days left until January 1. Have your child count the links and remove one each day.
- 6. Recreate a tradition from your own childhood. Share it with your child.
- 7. Put several items in a bag. Have your child and a friend or sibling reach in and choose three to use as props for a five-minute skit.
- 8. Plan a screen-free evening. Play Simon Says together instead.
- 9. Talk with your child about a choice you've made and the consequence of that choice.
- 10. Have your child replace the adjectives on a printed ad with their opposites.
- 11. Ask what your child would do if friends suggested stealing a candy bar.
- 12. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
- 13. Show your child which direction is *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*.
- 14. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The warmest? What's the difference between the two temperatures? Find out together.
- 15. Look through family photos together. Tell stories about the pictures.
- 16. Bake cookies with your child. If you're doubling a recipe, have your child do the math.
- 17. At dinner, ask family members to pick five words to describe themselves.
- 18. Talk with your child about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- 19. Have your child make a list of things to do when there's nothing to do.
- 20. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you only see in December.
- 21. Ask your child to write your shopping list before you go to the market.
- 22. Have a family sing-along. Ask family members to share their favorite songs.
- 23. Have your child make a snowman picture using cotton balls and glue.
- 24. Ask what your child's favorite winter activity is. If possible, make plans to do it together.
- 25. Tuck a loving note under a pillow for your child to find at bedtime.
- 26. Talk to your child about the importance of writing thank-you notes for gifts.
- 27. Begin telling a story. When you get to an exciting part, stop talking and let your child make up the rest.
- 28. Ask about the very best present your child ever received. What made it special?
- 29. With your child, listen to music in the dark. Concentrate on the sounds.
- 30. Post a vocabulary word and its definition on the bathroom mirror. Change it every three or four days.
- 31. Measure your child. How much did your student grow this year?