

# Daily Learning Planner

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



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

**September • October • November 2024**

## September 2024

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

- 1. Make an appointment to meet your child's teacher this month.
- 2. Set aside time every day for reading aloud together. Sometimes, take turns reading, sentence by sentence, or paragraph by paragraph.
- 3. Reinforce manners today. Remind your child to say *please* and *thank you*.
- 4. Write a note saying something nice about your child. Tuck it where your child will find it later.
- 5. Establish a regular time for completing assignments and studying this school year. Find the time that works best for your child.
- 6. Put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. With your child, watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- 7. Choose a visible place to display your child's best and most improved schoolwork. Change the display often.
- 8. Help your child plan ahead. Tonight, talk about the coming week.
- 9. At dinner, have each family member share a highlight of the day.
- 10. Have your child give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on sentence.
- 11. Keep a special basket as a home base for library books.
- 12. Have a 20-minute DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).
- 13. Challenge your child to think of words that have both a prefix and a suffix, such as *unbelievable*.
- 14. Keep a notebook handy when watching or listening to programs. Have your child jot down unfamiliar words. Look them up together later.
- 15. Tell your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 16. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.
- 17. Have your child write a list of favorite animals. Talk about what makes each animal special.
- 18. Use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice to write a message. Your child can hold the paper up to a light bulb to reveal the words.
- 19. Review the school rules with your child. Make it clear you expect your child to follow them.
- 20. Encourage your child to do a backpack clear out every Friday.
- 21. Play Guess That Number. Ask your child, "How many cookies are in the package? How many chips are in the bag?" Then, count.
- 22. Have your child write down a weekly goal and plan ways to meet it.
- 23. Review your child's schoolwork each day. Is it neat and complete? Praise good work and give constructive feedback.
- 24. Select a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word.
- 25. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast, at home or at school.
- 26. Introduce a new shape today. If your child already knows the basics, introduce a *hexagon* or *octagon*.
- 27. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word **FAMILY**.
- 28. Create leaf impressions. Have your child place a sheet of paper over some leaves and rub over the paper with crayons.
- 29. Get a deck of cards and try to build a house of cards with your child. Ask questions about school and life as you work.
- 30. Encourage persistence. Say, "You are making progress and I know you will get it!"

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- ☐ 1. Make a big pot of soup. Let your child help with measuring.
- ☐ 2. Have your child draw a picture of something that happened at school today. Discuss it together.
- ☐ 3. Ask your child to teach you some math the class is learning. It's an effective way to reinforce the information in your child's mind.
- ☐ 4. A planning calendar is key to organization. Help your child use one to track school assignments and test dates.
- ☐ 5. Sometime today, exchange notes with your child instead of talking.
- ☐ 6. Help your child start a collection. Provide a place to keep it—a box, a shelf, a drawer.
- ☐ 7. Read a book about your town or state with your child.
- ☐ 8. It's Fire Prevention Week. Have your child practice a safe escape route from your home. Plan where to meet if you get separated.
- ☐ 9. Today's news is history in the making. Watch the news with your child.
- ☐ 10. Together, look at a tree in your neighborhood. Talk about how it has changed in the last few weeks.
- ☐ 11. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- ☐ 12. Does your child have reading to do over the weekend? Have your student schedule time to complete it.
- ☐ 13. Start a project with your child. Make plans to work on it regularly.
- ☐ 14. Do a crossword puzzle together. It's a great way to learn new words.
- ☐ 15. Ask about the best present your child ever got. What made it special?
- ☐ 16. Make today Dictionary Day. Talk with your child about new words that should be in the dictionary.
- ☐ 17. Help your child time how long different daily activities take to do.
- ☐ 18. Dissolve some salt in water in a glass. Have your child observe it over the next few days. Talk about what happens.
- ☐ 19. Visit the library and check out a mystery book to read together.
- ☐ 20. At the store, ask your child to figure how much tax you will be charged on a purchase.
- ☐ 21. Look through a newspaper together, in print or online. What headlines interest your child? Read an article out loud and discuss it.
- ☐ 22. Ask your child to use a measuring tape to measure the dimensions of objects in your house, then write them down.
- ☐ 23. Talk about careers. What kinds of jobs interest your elementary schooler? Discuss how education will help.
- ☐ 24. With your child, learn how to count to 10 in at least three different languages.
- ☐ 25. Have your child pretend to be Mayor for a day. Ask, "What three things would make our community a better place?"
- ☐ 26. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to provide practice answering questions that require reasoning.
- ☐ 27. Give your child a hug today.
- ☐ 28. Spend a half hour reading together today. Let your child pick the book you will read.
- ☐ 29. Exercise with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy, such as biking or tossing a ball.
- ☐ 30. Talk with your child about ways to handle stress. Exercising and talking to someone are effective strategies to try.
- ☐ 31. Choose a familiar object, such as a paper clip. Ask your child to figure out different ways to use it.

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- ☐ 1. Collect interesting containers, packing materials, yarn, glitter, etc. Save the supplies for rainy day art sessions.
- ☐ 2. Have a jump rope contest today. See how many jumps your child can do in a row.
- ☐ 3. At dinner, price each dish. Can your child add up the cost of the meal?
- ☐ 4. After your child completes a nonfiction reading assignment, ask to hear about it in your student's own words.
- ☐ 5. Pretend to go back in time. Have your child pick a historic event, then reenact it together.
- ☐ 6. Make your child laugh! Tell a joke, read a funny story or poem, sing a silly song or draw a cartoon.
- ☐ 7. Ask your child to think of an animal that starts with each letter of the alphabet (skip the letter X).
- ☐ 8. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.
- ☐ 9. Turn off the screens this evening! Read or play games instead.
- ☐ 10. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a family pet.
- ☐ 11. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word and rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- ☐ 12. Hum a song and see if your child can guess its name.
- ☐ 13. Help your child organize books by subject, title or author.
- ☐ 14. When your child is unsuccessful, ask, "How could you do it differently next time?"
- ☐ 15. Take a fraction walk with your child. Write down what you see: 3/6 of cars are blue, 4/5 of houses have a gray roof.
- ☐ 16. Let your child plan dinner tonight. How many food groups can your elementary schooler include?
- ☐ 17. Put on music and spend 15 minutes drawing or writing together. Let the music be your inspiration.
- ☐ 18. Invent a word with your child. Write a definition as it would appear in the dictionary.
- ☐ 19. Cut an apple in half. Let your child dip the cut edge in paint and press it on paper to make fruit prints.
- ☐ 20. Help your child find ways to pursue interests in greater depth.
- ☐ 21. Hold a family meeting. Establish some goals as a family.
- ☐ 22. Ask your child to guess how many times you blink in a minute. Then, let your child observe you and check!
- ☐ 23. Put together a "kitchen band." How many kitchen objects can your child use to make music?
- ☐ 24. Have your child draw a picture. Next, ask your elementary schooler to make up a story about it and tell it to somebody.
- ☐ 25. Plan an imaginary vacation with your child.
- ☐ 26. Talk together about something your child has done well today.
- ☐ 27. Bake bread with your child. Biscuits are simple to prepare.
- ☐ 28. At dinner, have each family member say something they appreciate about every person at the table.
- ☐ 29. Make up a secret code with your child. Use it to write notes this week.
- ☐ 30. Experiment by holding your noses while eating a snack. Ask your child, "Does it change the taste of the food?"

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