

Daily Learning Planner

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



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2025

September 2025

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

- ☐ 1. Point out all the reasons your family writes throughout the day.
- ☐ 2. Have your child read to you as you're cleaning up after a meal. Or, you read aloud as your child cleans up!
- ☐ 3. Give your child access to basic reference materials to use while studying—an atlas, a dictionary, a thesaurus, in print or online.
- ☐ 4. Start a family savings jar. Everyone can decide on what the goal will be and how they will contribute.
- ☐ 5. Assign a place by the door for items that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each evening.
- ☐ 6. Schedule study time when your child is most alert. Some kids are most alert right after school, others after dinner.
- ☐ 7. Tonight, talk with your child about the week ahead. Plan to do this every Sunday night.
- ☐ 8. Use math to give your elementary schooler instructions. For example, ask your child to pick up $3 + 2 + 1$ toys.
- ☐ 9. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps your student will take to reach it.
- ☐ 10. Use a box as a home base for library books to help keep track of them.
- ☐ 11. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast.
- ☐ 12. Have your child pick a word and put its letters in alphabetical order.
- ☐ 13. Take an imaginary trip with your child. Where would you go? How would you get there?
- ☐ 14. Help your child do a backpack clean-out every weekend. Your student should discard trash and file returned schoolwork.
- ☐ 15. Review the school rules together. Make it clear you expect your child to follow them.
- ☐ 16. Choose a Word of the Day. Challenge family members to use it in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
- ☐ 17. Turn off the sound when your child is watching a show or video. Ask your student to create a story to go with the images.
- ☐ 18. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.
- ☐ 19. Keep some reading materials in the car for your child to read when you are on the road.
- ☐ 20. Have your child set a weekly goal. Write it down. Encourage other family members to do the same.
- ☐ 21. Plan a family meeting to discuss a decision you can make together.
- ☐ 22. Encourage your child to write a letter to a friend or relative telling about the beginning of the school year.
- ☐ 23. See how many different types of punctuation your child can find in a short book or article.
- ☐ 24. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for a friend or neighbor.
- ☐ 25. List three of your child's successes this week. List three of your own. Post the lists where you can both see them.
- ☐ 26. If you haven't met your child's teacher yet, plan to do so. Talk about your meeting with your child.
- ☐ 27. Review what to do in an emergency. Post contact information for who your child should call in specific situations.
- ☐ 28. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
- ☐ 29. Tonight, allow a few minutes after lights-out for a chat with your child.
- ☐ 30. At dinner, ask family members to talk about the best and the worst parts of their day. Make sure everyone gets a turn to talk.

October 2025

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- ☐ 1. Have a family Geography Challenge. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- ☐ 2. Ask your child to teach you a concept the class is learning.
- ☐ 3. Have your child estimate the number of socks in a drawer, then count.
- ☐ 4. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, have your child read to you.
- ☐ 5. Talk about books you loved when you were your child's age.
- ☐ 6. Write your child's name vertically. Have your student use each letter to begin a line of a poem.
- ☐ 7. At dinner, put a price on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the cost of the meal.
- ☐ 8. Today is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Practice a safe escape route from your home. Plan where to meet if you get separated.
- ☐ 9. Let your child see you reading something today—a news article, a recipe, a novel, etc. Explain why you are reading it.
- ☐ 10. Have a jump rope contest. Together, count how many jumps your child can do in a row.
- ☐ 11. Offer praise when your child puts effort into learning.
- ☐ 12. Have a music-sharing night. Listen to family members' favorite songs. Talk about how the music makes each of you feel.
- ☐ 13. Think of a skill you and your child would both like to learn. Then, check out a how-to book about it to read together.
- ☐ 14. Ask your child to close eyes and identify what you are doing just by the sound—jiggling keys, for example.
- ☐ 15. Have your child turn a news article headline into a question. Then, read the article together. Does it answer the question?
- ☐ 16. Start a made-up story. "A man went down the road and he met a ____." Let your child finish the story.
- ☐ 17. Write an encouraging note and tuck it into your child's backpack.
- ☐ 18. Talk about something your child did well today.
- ☐ 19. Bake cookies together. Help your child figure out how much of each ingredient you would need if you doubled the recipe.
- ☐ 20. Talk with your child about ways to handle stress. Exercising and talking to someone are effective ways to ease stress.
- ☐ 21. Ask what your child's favorite thing about you is. Share something you love about your child.
- ☐ 22. Choose a number from 1-12, then have your child list things that come in groups of that number.
- ☐ 23. Have your child rub two stones together for a few minutes. Can your student feel the heat generated? Explain that this is caused by *friction*.
- ☐ 24. Ask your child to imagine and describe life 150 years in the future.
- ☐ 25. Look for a print and an audio version of a book. Have your child read along while listening.
- ☐ 26. Ask your child, "What would you do if you were invisible for a day?"
- ☐ 27. How many words your child can make from the letters in OCTOBER?
- ☐ 28. Pick a category. Ask your child to pick a letter. How many items from the category can your child think of that begin with that letter?
- ☐ 29. Sing a familiar song and leave out some words. Can your child tell you which words you left out?
- ☐ 30. Take turns naming the parts of the body. (Organs count, too.)
- ☐ 31. Help your child make a fall table decoration.

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November 2025

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- ☐ 1. Teach your child how to prepare some nutritious after-school snacks.
- ☐ 2. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your child today.
- ☐ 3. Help your child make a personal dictionary of newly learned words.
- ☐ 4. Watch or read the national weather forecast together today. Help your child locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- ☐ 5. Have your child write directions for making a sandwich. Follow them exactly.
- ☐ 6. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- ☐ 7. Look for a news story that interests your child. Together, learn more about it.
- ☐ 8. Trace your child's hand on paper. Ask, "Can you think of ways to be a helping hand?" Write your child's ideas on the drawing.
- ☐ 9. Ask family members to write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read your lists aloud at dinner.
- ☐ 10. Choose books to read together that you and your child can both enjoy.
- ☐ 11. Watch a TV show or video with your child. Talk about decisions the characters made. What would your child have done?
- ☐ 12. When you're in the store, ask your child to figure how much sales tax you will be charged.
- ☐ 13. Challenge your child to invent something that will make life easier.
- ☐ 14. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.
- ☐ 15. Have all family members pitch in for a half-hour "blitz" of house cleaning. It teaches children that they share in family responsibilities.
- ☐ 16. Let your child pick a country. Look for recipes from that country and prepare one together.
- ☐ 17. Watch the news with your child. Choose a Person of the Week. Read more about that person.
- ☐ 18. Demonstrate how to check your child's pulse. Then, have your student jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?
- ☐ 19. Ask your child, "What is your favorite sport? What do you like about it?"
- ☐ 20. Create a word search. Hide words in a grid and surround with random letters. Let your child find the words.
- ☐ 21. Talk together about ways to say *no* to friends who ask your child to do something that is against the rules or feels wrong.
- ☐ 22. Have a device-free evening. Read or play games as a family instead.
- ☐ 23. Talk with your child about mistakes. Explain that learning from mistakes makes people smarter.
- ☐ 24. Talk with your child about a choice you've made and the consequences of that choice.
- ☐ 25. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- ☐ 26. Look at family pictures and tell your child some family stories.
- ☐ 27. Make a list of all the things that make your family thankful.
- ☐ 28. Challenge your child to replace the adjectives in a printed ad with their opposites.
- ☐ 29. Read a book with your child about your town, state or region.
- ☐ 30. Ask your child, "What things have you done in your life that you are proud of?"

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