

# Daily Learning Planner

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



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

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## March 2023

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

- 1. Try a new kind of transportation with your child, such as a bus, subway or train.
- 2. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.
- 3. Have your child watch for seasonal changes in plant and animal life in your neighborhood and keep notes in a journal.
- 4. Write fractions on cards. Mix them up. Have your child put them in order from smallest to greatest.
- 5. Celebrate National Noodle Month. Ask your child to help you fix pasta for dinner.
- 6. Place a long piece of string in a clear bag. Ask your child to estimate if it is longer or shorter than your height. Then take it out to check.
- 7. Give your child some objects to organize, by color, shape or size.
- 8. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- 9. Ask your child to draw a future self-portrait. What will your child look like in 10 years?
- 10. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to create a story.
- 11. It's Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Women Who Tell Our Stories." Help your child learn about a famous woman writer.
- 12. Go for a walk or bike ride today. Challenge each other to spot something you haven't seen before.
- 13. Play a card game, such as Go Fish, with your child.
- 14. Does your child have a special reading and study spot? Keep paper, pencils and other school supplies handy nearby.
- 15. Show your child how to figure out which way the wind is blowing by using a wet finger or looking at the trees.
- 16. Demonstrate how to take your child's pulse. Then have your child jump up and down 50 times and take it again.
- 17. Let your child use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice to write an invisible message. To read it, hold the paper up to a light bulb.
- 18. Help your child fold paper to make different types of airplanes. See which ones fly the best.
- 19. Plan a device-free night. Read or listen to music together instead.
- 20. Have your child write a short story from the point of view of a tree.
- 21. Ask your child, "What would you do with five dollars?"
- 22. Does your child know when your town was founded? If not, look it up together.
- 23. Play a game of Simon Says with your child.
- 24. Have a 20-minute DEAR time today (Drop Everything And Read).
- 25. Practice stress-busters together, such as breathing deeply.
- 26. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make that dish today.
- 27. Ask your child to use a "radio announcer voice" when reading to you.
- 28. Take turns describing the most beautiful places you and your child have ever seen.
- 29. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 30. Have your child fill in the blank: "If I had one wish, it would be \_\_\_\_."
- 31. Review some civics facts today. Can your child name the branches of the government?

# April 2023

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- 1. Ask your child to write a poem or story about a favorite activity.
- 2. Use a permanent marker to mark off inches on the side of a straight-sided jar. Set the jar outside. See how many inches of rain fall this week.
- 3. Talk together about books you loved when you were your child's age.
- 4. Have your child rank assignments from easiest to hardest. Suggest tackling the hardest one first.
- 5. Have a family rhyming dinner. Invent rhyming names for the foods you serve.
- 6. Ask your child to draw a picture of something that happened in school today. Then talk about it.
- 7. Go on a map search through a printed or online newspaper. How many maps can your child find?
- 8. Have everyone in the family spend a half hour picking up the house. Many hands make light work.
- 9. Change chairs at mealtime. Each person pretend to be the person who usually sits in that chair.
- 10. It's National Poetry Month. Read three poems with your child today.
- 11. Time various tasks you and your child do in a day.
- 12. With your child, learn how to say *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me* in at least three different languages.
- 13. Look through news articles together. What headlines interest your child? Read an article aloud and discuss it.
- 14. Have a Geography Challenge. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
- 15. Brainstorm ways your family could help beautify your neighborhood.
- 16. Encourage your child to set a weekly goal. Write it down. Could you do this, too?
- 17. Have your child draw an upside-down picture today.
- 18. Sing your child's favorite song together.
- 19. Avoid a power struggle by challenging your child to come up with a solution that works for you both.
- 20. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, ask your child to read to you.
- 21. Ask your child, "What is something you have done in your life that makes you proud?"
- 22. Have your child make a list of items your family can reuse, repurpose or recycle.
- 23. Model positive work habits for your child, such as promptness, respect and responsibility.
- 24. Look over your child's schoolwork. Give specific compliments first, and then constructive criticism.
- 25. Ask your child to give you a tour of the school website.
- 26. Encourage your child to look up unfamiliar words in assignments in a dictionary.
- 27. Ask your child to listen for a certain word as you read and say it aloud on hearing it.
- 28. Take a walk with your child tonight. See how many stars you can see.
- 29. Visit the library with the whole family and be sure everyone checks out some books.
- 30. Plan to get some outdoor exercise with your child every day this week.

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# May 2023

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

- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 3. Role-play a sticky situation together. What would your child do if friends were teasing someone at school?
- 4. Remind your child that it is not necessary to like a teacher in order to learn something in a class.
- 5. Learn together. Watch a "how-to" video with your child today.
- 6. Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Do math problems outside together.
- 7. Ask your child to give you an "evening news" report about what happened at school today. What's the scoop?
- 8. Play Alphabet Mix-up. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 9. Have your child thread a button onto some string, then make the button spin.
- 10. Low grades indicate a problem to be solved. Ask what your child thinks the problem is. What could your student do to fix it?
- 11. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone at school.
- 12. Create a display of your child's best schoolwork. Rotate the work on display frequently.
- 13. Have your child write and send a letter or email to a relative.
- 14. Tonight, let your child stay up later to read.
- 15. Ask the school about dates for year-end tests. Make sure your child gets enough sleep the nights before.
- 16. Teach your child how to disagree respectfully.
- 17. Make up a song featuring your child's name.
- 18. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?"
- 19. Talk with your child about your family's origins.
- 20. Go on a picnic with your child today. After eating, stretch out on a blanket and read together.
- 21. Do a crossword puzzle with your child today.
- 22. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what's in the picture?
- 23. Make a list with your child of words that came from other languages. Here's a start: *vamoose*, *taco*, *pasta*.
- 24. Have a pattern day. Ask your child to notice patterns all around, such as a striped shirt or streets arranged alphabetically.
- 25. Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- 26. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 27. Celebrate National Bike Month by having your child review the "rules of the road."
- 28. If you give your child an allowance, set guidelines for how much should be used for buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 29. It's Memorial Day. Talk with your child about why this holiday is celebrated in the United States.
- 30. Get out five pipe cleaners. Challenge your child to twist and bend them to create an animal.
- 31. Together, read a book about your town or state.

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