

# Daily Learning Planner

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



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## December 2023

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

- 1. Get some exercise with your child today.
- 2. Don't try to do everything yourself this month. Ask your child to take the responsibility for one or two seasonal traditions.
- 3. Encourage your child to take photos during a family outing or event.
- 4. Look online or in the newspaper for a list of local free events. Plan to attend one this month as a family.
- 5. Don't let holiday plans derail your child's study routine.
- 6. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The warmest? Have your child calculate the difference between the two temperatures.
- 7. Review goals for the school year. Is your child making progress?
- 8. Ask your child to teach you something about a school subject—even if you already know the material.
- 9. Talk about your expectations with your child. Ask if there is a new responsibility your child feels ready to take on.
- 10. Books are great gifts for middle schoolers. Ask a librarian to recommend a popular series for your child.
- 11. Have your child choose a recipe to follow from a cookbook.
- 12. After dinner, have family members take photos of each other. Vote on who made the funniest face.
- 13. Help your child brainstorm fun things to do inside. Write each idea on an index card. When bad weather strikes, have your child pick a card.
- 14. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word; rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 15. Ask to see your child's most recent math assignment. Did your child think it was easy? Challenging?
- 16. Have dinner by flashlight tonight.
- 17. Before your child buys something, suggest comparing prices and return policies.
- 18. Be on the lookout for things your child does right. Praise effort and positive behavior.
- 19. Talk with your child about things you both could do to conserve energy and natural resources.
- 20. Remain positive when helping your child with schoolwork, even if your student is discouraged. "I know you can learn this."
- 21. One evening over winter break, watch your child's favorite show together and discuss it.
- 22. Encourage your child to talk to older relatives about their childhoods.
- 23. Ask each family member to put two items that have special meaning into a family time capsule. Plan to open it in 10 years.
- 24. Think your child is too old for reading aloud? Try it. Or try listening to audiobooks together.
- 25. Take turns telling about the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you.
- 26. Plan an indoor campout. Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and read scary stories.
- 27. Start a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 28. Keep the lines of communication open now with your middle schooler. It will help you both through the teen years.
- 29. Ask your child to look up a few new words in the dictionary and explain their meanings to you.
- 30. Play a screen-free game together tonight—a board game, cards, dominoes, charades—whatever your child would like.
- 31. Review the year with your child. Highlight accomplishments.