Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children do well in school

Newark Public Schools

THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

October 2026

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

1. When your child brings home graded schoolwork, talk about things your student did correctly before discussing errors.
2. Start a family savings jar. As a family, discuss what the goal will be and how much each person wants to donate.
3. Role-play a sticky situation with your child. What would your elementary schooler do if friends were teasing someone at school?
4. Plan a family talent show. Have everyone practice their acts this week.
5. Do a crossword or other word puzzle with your child.
6. Ask your child to tell you what *fairness* looks like. What things show fairness in action?
7. Help your child start a collection. Provide a place to keep it—a box, a shelf, a drawer.
8. Celebrate National Popcorn Poppin' Month. Pop some popcorn to enjoy together during family reading time.
9. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight. Take turns quizzing one another.
10. Help your child create a personal dictionary. In a notebook, your student can write down new words found while reading and their definitions.
11. Ask your child to predict how long tasks and activities will take today and then time them.
12. Celebrate National School Lunch Week. Talk with your child about nutritious food choices for lunch.
13. Look through a newspaper with your child. Which headlines interest your student? Read an article together and discuss it.
14. Create an art gallery. Display your child's artwork in frames. Rotate the art frequently.
15. Cut out four pictures from advertisements or magazines. Ask your child to tell you a story that involves something from each picture.
16. Together, make up a song featuring your child's name.
17. With your child, make a fall table decoration.
18. Have a "silent supper." During dessert, have everyone share what they were thinking about when it was quiet.
19. Take turns with your child coming up with words with both a *prefix* and a *suffix* (such as *re*plac*ement*).
20. Using flash cards is an effective way to memorize facts. Encourage your child to take them along in the car and use travel time for review.
21. Have your child glue craft sticks together to make a frame for a favorite picture. Suggest using crayons or markers to decorate it.
22. Set aside some time to work on a hobby with your child.
23. At dinner, ask each family member to share the week's experiences.
24. Tell your child, "I love you" today and every day.
25. Put on music and spend 15 minutes drawing or writing with your child. Let the music be your inspiration.
26. What's the average age of members of your family? Ask your child to add up the ages, then divide by number of family members.
27. Challenge your child to build an animal out of five pipe cleaners.
28. Ask your child to write step-by-step directions for how to do something. Follow the directions exactly. Was anything missing?
29. Get some exercise with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy.
30. Read a book about your town or state with your child today.
31. Help your child learn how to count to 10 in at least three languages.

Copyright © 2026 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525