

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

Atkinson County Schools
Family Engagement



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Make it a point to introduce two new words at the dinner table tonight.
- 2. When your child asks a question you don't know the answer to, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up together later.
- 3. Work on a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 4. Go to a nearby park or running trail. Everyone run like the March wind!
- 5. Talk to your child at eye level. Sit, squat, kneel or lie on the floor.
- 6. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Start your child's day with a healthy breakfast at home or at preschool.
- 7. Read a story together. Stop in the middle and ask how your child would end it.
- 8. Demonstrate how long one minute is. Have your child guess how many times you will blink in one minute. Set a timer and count to find out!
- 9. Talk about colors today. What colors make your child think of spring?
- 10. Ask your child how the sun helps us. *Feeds plants, keeps us warm.* Can it harm us? *Sunburn.*
- 11. Cut a potato in half. Carve designs in each half. Let your child dip them in finger paint and press them onto paper to make prints.
- 12. Place light and heavy objects on the floor. Have your child blow on each one. Which blow away? Have your child make predictions.
- 13. Let your child choose a story to turn into a puppet show.
- 14. Play animal charades. Imitate an animal and have your child guess what you are pretending to be.
- 15. Divide a paper into squares. Write a number in each square. Have your child put the correct number of pieces of cereal in each square.
- 16. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
- 17. Ask your child to describe a happy memory.
- 18. Have a device-free day. Spend time playing outside as family instead.
- 19. Look through a magazine or catalog with your child for categories of things. Look for red things, then find green things.
- 20. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
- 21. Assign a new chore that your child was not ready for last spring, such as setting the table.
- 22. Give "toasts" at dinner. Have each family member honor another.
- 23. Teach the meanings of the words *forward*, *backward*, *low* and *high* by jumping with your child.
- 24. Celebrate your child's accomplishments with a "can-do" list. "Jamie can: run, count to 10, zip up a coat." Update the list regularly.
- 25. Put clues around the house to help your child find a treat. Make each clue a drawing that leads to the next.
- 26. Ask your child to look outside three times today and describe the weather with words such as *sunny*, *cloudy* or *rainy*.
- 27. Use your hands and feet to make music together. Clap, stomp, snap and tap.
- 28. Give your child three pictures that show different steps in a process. Ask, "Which came *first*, *second*, *last*?"
- 29. Read your child a story that rhymes.
- 30. Ask your child to place an item on the table, *beneath* the table, *next to* the table and *in front of* the table.
- 31. Look at the trees together and listen. Are the birds coming back?