

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
do well in school

Family and School Partnerships
Fairfax County Public Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. Make an appointment to meet your child's teacher this month.
- 2. Set aside time every day for reading aloud together. Sometimes, take turns reading, sentence by sentence, or paragraph by paragraph.
- 3. Reinforce manners today. Remind your child to say *please* and *thank you*.
- 4. Write a note saying something nice about your child. Tuck it where your child will find it later.
- 5. Establish a regular time for completing assignments and studying this school year. Find the time that works best for your child.
- 6. Put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. With your child, watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- 7. Choose a visible place to display your child's best and most improved schoolwork. Change the display often.
- 8. Help your child plan ahead. Tonight, talk about the coming week.
- 9. At dinner, have each family member share a highlight of the day.
- 10. Have your child give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on sentence.
- 11. Keep a special basket as a home base for library books.
- 12. Have a 20-minute DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).
- 13. Challenge your child to think of words that have both a prefix and a suffix, such as *unbelievable*.
- 14. Keep a notebook handy when watching or listening to programs. Have your child jot down unfamiliar words. Look them up together later.
- 15. Tell your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 16. Talk about three ways you used math today. Ask everyone in the family how they used math.
- 17. Have your child write a list of favorite animals. Talk about what makes each animal special.
- 18. Use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice to write a message. Your child can hold the paper up to a light bulb to reveal the words.
- 19. Review the school rules with your child. Make it clear you expect your child to follow them.
- 20. Encourage your child to do a backpack clear out every Friday.
- 21. Play Guess That Number. Ask your child, "How many cookies are in the package? How many chips are in the bag?" Then, count.
- 22. Have your child write down a weekly goal and plan ways to meet it.
- 23. Review your child's schoolwork each day. Is it neat and complete? Praise good work and give constructive feedback.
- 24. Select a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word.
- 25. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast, at home or at school.
- 26. Introduce a new shape today. If your child already knows the basics, introduce a *hexagon* or *octagon*.
- 27. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.
- 28. Create leaf impressions. Have your child place a sheet of paper over some leaves and rub over the paper with crayons.
- 29. Get a deck of cards and try to build a house of cards with your child. Ask questions about school and life as you work.
- 30. Encourage persistence. Say, "You are making progress and I know you will get it!"