

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school*

Family and School Partnerships
Fairfax County Public Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December 2021

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

- 1. Spray shaving cream in the tub. Let your child use a finger to draw shapes in the shaving cream.
- 2. Help your child think of words that describe *winter*.
- 3. Hide a toy in a box. Have your child shake it and guess what's inside.
- 4. Glue a photo of your child onto a piece of paper. Have him decorate around it with drawings to make a gift for someone.
- 5. Cut string into three pieces of different lengths. Can your child arrange them from *shortest* to *longest*?
- 6. Give your child a large piece of white paper. Ask her to draw or paint seasonal decorations.
- 7. Offer to serve your child's favorite dessert, as long as he helps make it.
- 8. Give your child three pictures that show different stages of an event. Ask, "Which came *first*, *next*, *last*?"
- 9. Practice sharing with your child.
- 10. Describe a noise and ask your child to tell you if it's *loud* or *soft*.
- 11. See how long your child can stand on one foot. How about with her eyes closed?
- 12. Help your child clean out his closet. Donate toys and clothes in good condition to other families or a charity.
- 13. Teach your child what to do in case of a fire.
- 14. Assign your child a special job. It's never too early to learn responsibility!
- 15. When the weather is wet or frigid, encourage indoor exercise.
- 16. Does your child know her birth date? If not, teach her. Tell her the birth dates of close friends and family members.
- 17. Name as many types of lights as you and your child can think of (flashlights, lamps, candles, holiday lights, headlights).
- 18. If your family will be taking a long car trip, pack a bag full of snacks, books and games to keep your child entertained.
- 19. Share 15 minutes of your favorite music with your child. Then listen to 15 minutes of songs he loves.
- 20. Blow bubbles together in freezing weather. How does the cold affect them? Look for ice forming on bubbles.
- 21. Have your child save pennies in a jar. When the jar is full, exchange the pennies for dollars and let her buy something.
- 22. Many people celebrate holidays in December. What holidays can your child name? Talk about why they are special.
- 23. Say a word. Can your child name one that begins with the same sound?
- 24. Ask your child to tell you the three best things about himself.
- 25. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you only see in December, such as holiday decorations and lights.
- 26. Pour salt on a plate. Let your child write letters in it with her fingers.
- 27. Decorate bagels for a snack. Use cream cheese and chopped vegetables.
- 28. Discuss feelings. Can your child make a happy face? What might he say if he were sad?
- 29. Pretend you have a magic carpet. Ask your child where she would go.
- 30. Talk with your child about the best things you both can remember from the past year.
- 31. Help your child make a noisemaker. Put uncooked rice in an aluminum pie pan and staple another pie pan on top.