

Daily Learning Planner

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

Thornton Middle School



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

- 1. April is Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month. Take time to talk about math with your child each day this month.
- 2. Make a “world time” display with several clocks. Have your child set them to times in different countries.
- 3. Visit the grocery store spice aisle. Have your child calculate the difference in price per pound between the least and most expensive spices.
- 4. Look at a map together. Ask your child to show you the shortest route between two particular cities.
- 5. When disagreeing with your child, focus more on solutions than blame.
- 6. Do a library card “checkup.” Does every member of the family have a card? If not, go sign up!
- 7. If your child gets nervous before tests, a pep talk can help. Say, “You know it. You studied hard. You can do it.”
- 8. Encourage your child to try a sport. Studies show that sports participation has a positive effect on school performance.
- 9. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 10. Tell your child why you value education. Talk about your student’s long-range goals.
- 11. Say to your child, “If there’s anything you want or need to talk about, I’m always willing to listen.”
- 12. Have your child add two four-digit numbers. Can your middle schooler figure out the sum on paper before you can with a calculator?
- 13. Have your child list five questions most middle schoolers would like adults to ask them.
- 14. Sometime today, exchange notes with your child instead of talking. (This also works when things get noisy!)
- 15. Encourage reading by giving your child a book as a gift. Look for a title on a topic your child is interested in.
- 16. Experience is a great teacher. As long as it’s safe, replace the phrase “It won’t work” with “Why not try it?”
- 17. Find a place in your home to display things your child is proud of, such as awards and improved schoolwork.
- 18. When your child is studying history, acting out past events can bring lessons to life.
- 19. Ask to hear about the best dream your child has ever had.
- 20. Give your child old photos of family members to turn into a collage.
- 21. Write a letter about an important day in your middle schooler’s early years. Send it to your child.
- 22. Make a list with your child of words that come from other languages. Here’s a start: *hummus, accident, alligator*.
- 23. Go on a nature walk with your child.
- 24. With your child, learn how to say “I love you” in sign language.
- 25. Ask what your child thinks it means to be a leader.
- 26. Check on your student’s grades. If necessary, discuss ways to raise them before the school year ends.
- 27. Does your child study well with others? Suggest forming a study group.
- 28. Together, look through your cupboards for foods produced in other countries. Have your child find these countries on a map.
- 29. Encourage your child to write a letter to a company to praise a product or express a concern.
- 30. Work on a hobby with your child.