

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

Vernon Elementary School



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September 2022

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

1. Draw pictures with your child of a special day you spent together over the summer.
2. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, let your child “read” to you.
3. Put on some lively music and get moving with your child!
4. Together, collect leaves, bark, and twigs. Then help your child make a tree collage by gluing the items on paper.
5. Put three spoons on a table. Ask your child to give you “just one.” If this is easy, ask for “just two.”
6. Read short news article to your child today.
7. Practice hopping, skipping and jumping together.
8. Look through a calendar with your child and point out special days, such as family members’ birthdays.
9. Cut an apple in half crosswise. What shape can your child see? (A star.) Then share the apple.
10. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what’s in the picture?
11. Pretend you and your child have a magic carpet. Where would you fly? What would you see?
12. Have a Word of the Day. Challenge family members to use the word in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
13. Mix dry beans and dry pasta in a bowl. Ask your child to sort them.
14. Talk with your child about *honesty* and why it is so important. Point to examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
15. Talk about the words *fall* and *autumn*. Make sure your child knows they are the same season.
16. Say to your child, “Close your eyes and listen.” Then make a sound, such as jingling keys. Can your child guess what you are doing?
17. Ask your child to find five *hard* things and five *soft* things.
18. With your child, take turns drawing blindfolded while the other person gives directions.
19. Children like to wear things they’ve made. Together, try decorating a plain T-shirt with fabric paint.
20. Ask your child, “What is something you would like to make into a family tradition?” Consider starting it.
21. Help your child create a card to send to a loved one.
22. Point out patterns on fabric to your child. Recognizing patterns is a necessary skill for reading and math.
23. Teach your child a new shape. If circles, squares and triangles are familiar, try an *octagon*. A stop sign is an example of an octagon.
24. Help your child look up facts about a favorite animal online or in nonfiction books.
25. Plan a visit to a local museum or park. Write it on your calendar.
26. Trace your child’s hand on paper. Then, help brainstorm ways to be a helping hand. Write your child’s ideas on the drawing.
27. Talk together about all the things people can see in the sky. What can your child name?
28. Cut straws into different lengths. Encourage your child to line them up from *shortest* to *longest*.
29. Set a goal to read at least three short books together today.
30. Ask your child to follow three-step directions, such as, “Go inside, take off your shoes and put them in the closet.”