

Daily Learning Planner

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

Oakland Elementary School



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. Play My Day, Your Day with your child. Each of you ask questions about the other's day.
- 2. With your child, learn how to say "I love you" in three other languages.
- 3. Have your child pretend to be a character from a book. Ask questions until you figure out who your elementary schooler is.
- 4. Look at photos from a year ago. Discuss how much your child has grown and learned since then!
- 5. Check ads for items with prices ending in 97, 98 or 99 cents. Have your child round off and estimate—how much would four of the items cost?
- 6. Look for books to read aloud that you and your child can both enjoy.
- 7. Test observation skills. Can your child describe someone that just passed by on the street?
- 8. Teach a card game to your child. Play it with the whole family tonight.
- 9. Make today punctuation day. See how many types of punctuation you and your child come across. What does each do?
- 10. Tuck a valentine in your child's lunch every day this week. Write a special message on each.
- 11. Do body arithmetic. Ask your child, "How much do your fingers, knees, toes and nose add up to?"
- 12. Exchange notes with your child instead of talking for part of the day.
- 13. When your child brings home a test, talk about what your student got right before discussing errors. What can your child learn from both?
- 14. At bedtime tonight, tell a story about yourself when you were your child's age.
- 15. Let your child stay up a few minutes later tonight to read in bed.
- 16. Visit the library. Check out a book about electricity to read together. Where does it come from? How do people control it?
- 17. Ask about the nicest thing a friend or classmate has ever done for your child.
- 18. Use yarn and a hanger to help your child turn snapshots of family members into a mobile. Hang it where everyone can see it.
- 19. Save the seeds from a fruit you've eaten. Help your child plant them in a paper cup and place it on the windowsill. Water and see if they grow.
- 20. Choose a number between 1 and 12. Have your child list things that come in that number (12 eggs, 4 corners on a square, etc).
- 21. Show enthusiasm about things your child is learning, even if the facts are not new to you. "That's so cool! Tell me more!"
- 22. Look at car ads in the newspaper or online. Encourage your child to design and name a new car.
- 23. Draw window pictures with your child. Look out the window, and draw what you see!
- 24. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. If you are a runner, take your elementary schooler for a short jog.
- 25. Have a silent supper. During dessert, have family members share what they were thinking about.
- 26. Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 27. Talk with your child about courage and people who show it.
- 28. Choose your words carefully when speaking about your child to others. Avoid making negative comments if your child could overhear.