

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Mount Vernon City School District



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!

- Exchange persuasive letters with your child. Try to convince each other of something.
- Have your child time how long a car trip takes and record how many miles you drove. Then ask, "What was our average speed?"
- Teach your child a saying, like, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."
- Encourage your child to find ways to volunteer. It's a good way to contribute to the community while learning new skills.
- Accept no excuses from your child for tardiness, skipping class or missing school.
- When giving your middle schooler instructions, consider texting them. This creates a written record your child can refer to.
- Suggest reading a biography together of a person your child admires.
- Children learn from adults' actions more than their words. Look for ways to set a positive example.
- Take a compass on a drive. Can your child use it to tell the direction you're going?
- Make an appointment with your child to do something fun together. Write it on your calendar.
- Visit the library. Encourage your child to try a new book genre.
- At breakfast, challenge your child to be on the lookout for fractions everywhere today. At dinner, ask where your child spotted fractions.
- Offer a reminder: Your child doesn't have to *like* a teacher to *learn* from that teacher.
- Check on your child's grades. If necessary, discuss a plan for raising them before the year ends.
- Ask your child to guess the purpose of a school assignment. Knowing why something is useful can be motivating.
- When you have a conversation with your child, try to avoid talking for more than 30 seconds at a time before letting your child speak.
- Eat breakfast with your child before school. Talk about what you each think the day will be like.
- Review what your child should do in the event of a weather emergency, such as a tornado or flood warning.
- Ask your child, "What are you most confident about doing?"
- Talk with your child about what makes a rewarding friendship.
- Ask your child questions about books, such as, "What would you do in that character's situation?"
- Play a word game with your child, such as Scrabble.
- Spend some extra time with your child today.
- Keep a world map or globe visible in your home. Together, locate places that are mentioned in the news.
- See how many words your child can think of that sound alike but mean different things, such as *tail* and *tale* or *coward* and *covered*.
- Listen to your child's concerns, but discourage repetitive whining.
- Ask your child to do a household task involving math, such as doubling a recipe or calculating the amount of paint needed for a room.
- Encourage your child to keep a notebook handy when reading and use it to jot down unfamiliar words to look up later.
- Discuss your child's goals for high school.
- Help your child talk with a college student about campus life.