

Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2023-2024

March 2024

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

- 1. Record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 2. Review math facts with your child today.
- 3. Talk about your day in lots of detail. Then, ask about your child's day.
- 4. Play Alphabet Mix-up. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 5. Talk to your child about a time you had to work with someone you didn't like. How did you handle it?
- 6. Talk about a familiar place and have your child decide which direction it is from your home—*north, south, east* or *west*. Then, look at a map.
- 7. Have your child turn a news article headline into a question. Then, read the article together. Did it answer the question?
- 8. Have your child choose a famous woman to learn more about. Look for biographical information online or at the library.
- 9. Fly a kite with your child today.
- 10. Encourage your child to read today's top news stories and report on one at dinner tonight.
- 11. Have your child read to you while you're in the car or on the bus.
- 12. Demonstrate how to take your own pulse. Have your child do it. Then, jump up and down 50 times together and take your pulses again.
- 13. Help your child start a collection. Provide a place to keep it—a box, a shelf, a drawer.
- 14. Set an example for your child by reading. Then, say something like, "I love reading about new things!"
- 15. Together, think of several words that start with the same letter. Put them in a sentence that makes sense.
- 16. Relax together. Say how much you enjoy your child's company.
- 17. Ask your child to use a radio announcer voice to read aloud to you.
- 18. Let your child help you make a family chore chart. Everyone can check off jobs as they are finished.
- 19. Ask your child to draw a self-portrait.
- 20. Go outside and watch as the wind moves through the trees. Ask your child, "What sound does the wind make?"
- 21. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 22. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when someone is being bullied.
- 23. Books that win the Caldecott medal have great illustrations. Help your child find one at the library.
- 24. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety.
- 25. Post a funny saying or comic where your child will see it.
- 26. Have your child write a letter or draw a picture for a living author of a book. Send it to the author in care of the book's publisher.
- 27. Hold a family meeting. Decide on some family goals together.
- 28. Encourage your child to take healthy risks. For example, suggest talking to a classmate your child doesn't know well.
- 29. Help your child make a plan and carry it out.
- 30. Combine TV viewing with exercise. When a commercial comes on, get your family up and move. Jump up and down, run in place, do sit-ups.
- 31. Check ads for prices ending in 98 or 99 cents. Challenge your child to round off and estimate how much four of these items would cost.

April 2024

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

- 1. Have a silly supper tonight. Grab a blanket and sit on the floor. Serve finger foods such as fruit, carrot sticks, cheese and popcorn.
- 2. April is Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month. Take time to talk about math with your child each day this month.
- 3. Correct mistakes in a positive way. "You got everything right except these two questions. I bet you can learn them, too!"
- 4. Have your child fill a container with water, then pour it into a differently shaped container. Does the quantity of water look different?
- 5. Help your child figure out the perimeter and area of a room in your home.
- 6. Listen to a piece of music that has no lyrics. Have your child write lyrics for the song.
- 7. Help your child interview people in various careers that seem interesting. What would a typical day be like?
- 8. Learn the sign language alphabet with your child. Use it to practice spelling words today.
- 9. Have your child think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
- 10. Ask, "What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?" Have your child describe it.
- 11. Point to a country on a globe or a map. Help your child figure out what time it is there.
- 12. Talk about *honesty* and why it is so important. Point to examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- 13. Have everyone bring a joke to the dinner table. Laughter is the best dinner music!
- 14. Take an early morning walk with your child. Look for signs of spring.

- 15. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing you have done for someone in our family?"
- 16. Gather some pictures your child can cut up. Have your child cut out items with 90 degree angles and make a collage of them.
- 17. Help your child see the bright side of a difficult situation. "This line is long, but it gives us time to play a game while we wait."
- 18. Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help your student raise them before the year ends.
- 19. Have your child write math facts on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 20. Have 20 minutes of DEAR time today. This is a time when family members Drop Everything And Read.
- 21. Measure how far your child can jump. Can your student estimate how many jumps it would take to go around your house?
- 22. As a family, discuss steps you can take to conserve natural resources.
- 23. Teach your child about *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *bass* (fish and instrument).
- 24. Find a new way to say "I love you" to your child—for example, in sign language or in secret code.
- 25. Ask your child, "What do you think middle school will be like?"
- 26. Choose a recipe from another country or culture. Prepare it together.
- 27. Help your child measure something with a ruler. Count the inches.
- 28. Ask your child, "What do you think is the best part of being a parent?"
- 29. Together, find out which is the oldest building in your town and visit it.
- 30. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.

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May 2024

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

- 1. With your child, make up a new unit of measurement. How many fingers long is your child's desk?
- 2. Go outside with your child and look for "pictures" in the clouds.
- 3. Ask your child to teach you how to play a game you don't know.
- 4. Encourage your child to put on a talent show or puppet show. You provide the popcorn and the applause.
- 5. Celebrate Be Kind to Animals Week. With your child, do something nice for your family pet or feed the birds in a park.
- 6. At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.
- 7. Let your child add a few raisins to a glass of clear soda. Watch them rise when bubbles collect on them and fall when the bubbles pop.
- 8. Talk about different food groups with your child. Together, try to classify the foods in your cupboard.
- 9. On a cloudy day, take a magnifying glass outside. Let your child look at insects through it.
- 10. Look at a photo in the news today with your child. Talk about it. Then read the article together.
- 11. Help your child see the link between positive habits and results.
- 12. Try spending an entire day without modern technology. What can your family do instead?
- 13. Tonight, look at the moon. Is it a crescent, full circle or half circle? Have your child draw the shape.
- 14. It's Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Enjoy some new physical activity you can do together as a family.
- 15. Pay your child a specific compliment.

- 16. Watch a sunset with your child.
- 17. Challenge your child to invent something that will make life easier.
- 18. Hide 25 pennies around the house. Have your child find as many as possible. Count them. Fewer than 25? Have your child keep looking.
- 19. Together, hold your noses while you eat. Does it affect the food's taste? Explain that we use the senses of taste *and* smell to perceive flavor.
- 20. Watch the news with your child. Choose a Person of the Week. Read more about that person.
- 21. Play a game together without obeying the rules. Then, play with the rules. Which way works better?
- 22. Look at family photos together from one year ago. Talk about all the ways your child has grown!
- 23. Plant a windowsill garden with your child.
- 24. Remind your child that no one is perfect, but we can all learn and get smarter.
- 25. Play a board game that uses math, such as Monopoly.
- 26. Talk with your child about leadership. Effective leaders aren't bossy or mean. They make people want to work together.
- 27. Before your child starts a project, ask "What do you want to learn from this?"
- 28. Ask your child to create an advertisement for a favorite school subject.
- 29. Avoid comparing your child to others.
- 30. Ask your child, "Why don't clouds fall out of the sky?" Read together to find the answer.
- 31. Have your child add up all the change in your pocket or purse. Help your student practice making change.

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