

Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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March 2024

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

- 1. Make a family commitment to read for at least 20 minutes every day.
- 2. Experience is a great teacher. As long as it's safe, replace the phrase "It won't work" with "Why not try it?"
- 3. Let your teen invite some friends over for dinner one night.
- 4. Did your teen earn money last year? Help your student get a tax form and file it.
- 5. Does your teen want to talk? Stop what you're doing and listen.
- 6. Have your teen make diagrams, time lines or flash cards when studying. Visual study aids can make information more memorable.
- 7. Ask your teen to plan a family activity and make all the arrangements.
- 8. Is your teen learning a new concept in math or science? Suggest searching online for related videos.
- 9. Urge your teen to strive for "personal bests" and to avoid comparisons with others.
- 10. It's Women's History Month. Help your teen find a biography of an inspiring woman.
- 11. Keep talking about school. Every day, ask what your student is doing and learning about.
- 12. Cut the title off a news article. Have your teen read the story and give it a title. Compare the two titles.
- 13. Enjoy a special snack together. Discuss your teen's short- and long-term goals.
- 14. Learn a fun tongue twister. At dinner, challenge family members to repeat it three times fast.
- 15. Talk with your teen about what makes you happy and what causes stress in your life.
- 16. Ask what your teen thinks would be the most rewarding aspects of being a parent. Share your own thoughts.
- 17. Have your teen tell you how to get from one place to another. Follow the directions together. Are they correct?
- 18. Encourage your teen to try something new, like writing a song or making a sculpture.
- 19. Go outside for some exercise with your teen.
- 20. Memorize something with your teen today. Try a poem or a quotation.
- 21. Ask your teen, "What do you think you'll care most about when you are 25?"
- 22. Share stories with your teen that convey your values and your family's history.
- 23. Watch an educational TV show with your teen.
- 24. Teach your teen to keep a spending record. It should include dates, prices, what was bought, and who your teen was with at the time.
- 25. Start a family book club. Give each person a turn making a selection.
- 26. Remain calm when your teen overreacts. Set a time to talk later when you both are in control.
- 27. Look over a completed assignment and ask questions to help your teen review.
- 28. Encourage your teen to write a nice note to a friend today.
- 29. Keep reading material in the car. When you're driving and stuck in traffic, have your teen read to you.
- 30. Share some memories with your teen.
- 31. Suggest that your teen look for a new book by a favorite author.

April 2024

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- 1. Celebrate your teen's achievements. Post report cards, honor roll lists and awards just as you did when your student was young.
- 2. Check on your teen's grades. If necessary, help your student create a plan to raise them before the year ends.
- 3. Remind your teen that school attendance is mandatory—even on warm spring days!
- 4. When your teen tells you something important, restate it to make sure you understand.
- 5. Cliques leave many teens on the sidelines. Encourage your teen to reach out and include others.
- 6. Have breakfast with your teen today. Talk about what you each like best about your teen's friends.
- 7. It's National Library Week. With your teen, explore all the services your local library has to offer.
- 8. Ask your teen to help you brainstorm dinner ideas for the week ahead.
- 9. In the morning, discuss your teen's plans for the day.
- 10. Talk about the importance of laws with your teen. What if there were none? What if they were ignored?
- 11. Give your teen some details about what you did today at work.
- 12. Ask your teen to report on a news item during dinner tonight.
- 13. Find an activity your teen loves and do it together this month.
- 14. Invent a recipe with your teen. If it doesn't work, brainstorm ways to fix it.
- 15. Write a brief story, leaving out the punctuation. Have your teen add punctuation that makes the story easy to read and understand.
- 16. Talk with your teen about mistakes. How can people learn from their mistakes?
- 17. When your teen does something well in school, say things like, "I want to hear all about it!"
- 18. Help your teen research possible future careers. What skills or education are required for each?
- 19. Encourage your teen to visit the school's career center.
- 20. Have family members bring a joke to share over dinner.
- 21. Offer to help your teen review for a big test. You could run through flash cards or time your student taking a practice test.
- 22. Make plans to do something together with the family of one of your teen's friends.
- 23. Have your teen find places mentioned in the news today on a map.
- 24. When was the last time you said "I love you" to your teen? Do it today.
- 25. While you are driving, see if your teen can point out traffic rules you are following.
- 26. Does your teen study well with others? If so, suggest starting a study group.
- 27. It's National Poetry Month. Challenge your teen to write a poem that conveys a message in very few words.
- 28. Offer a reminder of difficult things your teen has learned how to do that have taken time and effort to master.
- 29. Sit outside with your teen and enjoy some conversation.
- 30. Play to your teen's strengths. Look for ways for your student to apply them in everyday life.

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May 2024

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

- 1. Encourage self-evaluation. Have your teen consider, "Is this the best work I can do?"
- 2. Post a meaningful quotation where your teen is likely to see it.
- 3. Compliment your teen for a responsible action today.
- 4. Ask who your teen's role models are, and why.
- 5. Encourage your teen to proofread in different ways: by reading aloud, by reading back to front, etc. Both can help errors stand out.
- 6. Tuck an encouraging note in your teen's backpack.
- 7. Challenge your teen to combine exercise and learning by listening to an audiobook while working out.
- 8. Ask your teen, "What are 10 things you know now that you didn't at the beginning of the school year?"
- 9. Help your teen open a checking account.
- 10. Give family members marshmallows and toothpicks. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 11. Have your teen figure how much time is available to complete remaining schoolwork and studying before the school year ends.
- 12. Prepare an old family recipe with your teen. Talk about the special dishes handed down through the years.
- 13. Encourage your teen to save regularly for a long-term goal, such as college tuition or a car.
- 14. Today, talk to your teen as you would to a friend or co-worker. How does your teen respond?
- 15. Ask your teen about a recent test. Was it an effective measure of how well your student knew the material?
- 16. Give your teen a genuine and specific compliment.
- 17. Ask what your teen likes about school life.
- 18. Volunteering to host a year-end dinner for your teen's team or club is a great way to observe other teens and gain insight into yours.
- 19. Challenge family members to memorize a short poem to share at dinner.
- 20. Students are very busy at this time of year. Make sure your teen gets plenty of sleep.
- 21. Look for a class you and your teen can take together this summer.
- 22. Ask your teen, "What one thing do you wish we did differently at home?" Be open to your teen's suggestions.
- 23. When communicating with your teen, listen more than you talk.
- 24. Ask your teen, "Which assignments from this past school year do you think you'll remember five years from today?"
- 25. Watch a TV program about the arts with your teen.
- 26. Introduce your teen to historical fiction. It's a great way to put a human face on history.
- 27. Talk with your teen about the best movies you each ever saw. What made them great?
- 28. Remind your teen: A positive attitude toward learning, a strong work ethic and a balanced outlook on life are as essential as grades.
- 29. With your teen, plan a special activity to celebrate the end of the school year.
- 30. In many schools, teens pull year-end pranks. Talk about what's acceptable and what isn't.
- 31. If your teen could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

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