

Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2024

March 2024

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

- 1. Ask your child, "If you could meet anyone from the past, who would it be? What questions would you ask?"
- 2. Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes cleaning up your home. Many hands make light work.
- 3. Write your child a note of thanks. "It's such a help to the family when you vacuum the floor. Thank you!"
- 4. Stage a family fire drill. Make sure your smoke alarms work.
- 5. Ask what five rules your child would make if in charge of the household.
- 6. Discuss an international news event with your middle schooler. How is it affecting this country?
- 7. As you drive, talk with your child about traffic safety.
- 8. Have a rhyming conversation with your child. It may be tough at first, but you'll get better!
- 9. Discuss ways to conserve resources. Encourage your student to reuse old papers that are blank on one side.
- 10. Talk with your child about ways to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- 11. Focus on things your child does well today. Provide specific praise.
- 12. Peer pressure can be positive. Encourage group activities like sports and volunteering.
- 13. Ask your child, "If you could redesign your room any way you wanted, what would you do?" Consider making reasonable changes.
- 14. Today is Pi Day. Pi is a mathematical constant that starts with 3.14. Go online with your child to learn more about pi.
- 15. Make sure your child gets enough sleep every night—especially in the days and weeks leading up to tests.
- 16. Give your child a plant to care for.
- 17. Let your child invite a friend to join your family for dinner one night.
- 18. Link responsibilities to freedom. By becoming more responsible, your child can earn more freedom.
- 19. On days without assignments, have your child use study time to review.
- 20. Create a word search for your child by hiding vocabulary words in a grid and surrounding them with random letters.
- 21. Challenge your child to do as many push-ups as possible.
- 22. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher.
- 23. Avoid disciplining your child in front of friends. Save it for when you are alone.
- 24. Visit a nearby museum together, or take a virtual museum tour online.
- 25. Talk with your child about romantic relationships. Share your values and standards.
- 26. Learn about the dangers of vaping. Talk about them with your child.
- 27. Ask your child to tell you about a favorite memory of family.
- 28. Encourage your child to review class notes, identify key ideas and draw pictures to illustrate them.
- 29. Have your child show you some websites or apps that have been helpful when doing schoolwork.
- 30. List your priorities in life, including family. Does your schedule reflect what's most important?
- 31. Challenge your child to find out how family first names would be pronounced in another language.

April 2024

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

- 1. April is Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month. Take time to talk about math with your child each day this month.
- 2. Make a “world time” display with several clocks. Have your child set them to times in different countries.
- 3. Visit the grocery store spice aisle. Have your child calculate the difference in price per pound between the least and most expensive spices.
- 4. Look at a map together. Ask your child to show you the shortest route between two particular cities.
- 5. When disagreeing with your child, focus more on solutions than blame.
- 6. Do a library card “checkup.” Does every member of the family have a card? If not, go sign up!
- 7. If your child gets nervous before tests, a pep talk can help. Say, “You know it. You studied hard. You can do it.”
- 8. Encourage your child to try a sport. Studies show that sports participation has a positive effect on school performance.
- 9. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 10. Tell your child why you value education. Talk about your student’s long-range goals.
- 11. Say to your child, “If there’s anything you want or need to talk about, I’m always willing to listen.”
- 12. Have your child add two four-digit numbers. Can your middle schooler figure out the sum on paper before you can with a calculator?
- 13. Have your child list five questions most middle schoolers would like adults to ask them.
- 14. Sometime today, exchange notes with your child instead of talking. (This also works when things get noisy!)
- 15. Encourage reading by giving your child a book as a gift. Look for a title on a topic your child is interested in.
- 16. Experience is a great teacher. As long as it’s safe, replace the phrase “It won’t work” with “Why not try it?”
- 17. Find a place in your home to display things your child is proud of, such as awards and improved schoolwork.
- 18. When your child is studying history, acting out past events can bring lessons to life.
- 19. Ask to hear about the best dream your child has ever had.
- 20. Give your child old photos of family members to turn into a collage.
- 21. Write a letter about an important day in your middle schooler’s early years. Send it to your child.
- 22. Make a list with your child of words that come from other languages. Here’s a start: *hummus, accident, alligator*.
- 23. Go on a nature walk with your child.
- 24. With your child, learn how to say “I love you” in sign language.
- 25. Ask what your child thinks it means to be a leader.
- 26. Check on your student’s grades. If necessary, discuss ways to raise them before the school year ends.
- 27. Does your child study well with others? Suggest forming a study group.
- 28. Together, look through your cupboards for foods produced in other countries. Have your child find these countries on a map.
- 29. Encourage your child to write a letter to a company to praise a product or express a concern.
- 30. Work on a hobby with your child.

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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. Drugs can be deadly the first time kids use them. Talk with your child and provide the facts.
- 2. Choose a book with an author’s name that begins with “A.” Read it together. Next, try a “B” book.
- 3. Help your child think of tough situations that might come up. How would your middle schooler handle them?
- 4. Don’t use problems with schoolwork as an excuse to criticize or argue with your child about other issues.
- 5. Make a decision as a family. Give everyone a say before deciding.
- 6. It’s Screen-Free Week. Have your child think of fun activities your family can do to replace digital entertainment.
- 7. Give your middle schooler a math-related household task to do. Can your child calculate your family’s average monthly electricity expense?
- 8. Challenge your child to circle all the adjectives in a news article.
- 9. Play geography games as a family. Ask one another to name capitals or describe locations of different countries.
- 10. Does your child need more responsibility? More time to talk? More privacy? Ask what your middle schooler thinks.
- 11. Patiently explain the reason for a rule your child doesn’t like.
- 12. Ask your child to help you plan and do the shopping for this week’s dinner menu.
- 13. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book that will make you both laugh.
- 14. Memorize something with your child today. Try a poem or a quotation.
- 15. Do everyday tasks with your child, such as washing dishes, to gain more time together.
- 16. Help your child find opportunities to volunteer in the community.
- 17. Help your child use a few spare minutes to get a jump-start on schoolwork.
- 18. It’s Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Enjoy a physical activity together as a family.
- 19. Look at family photos with your child. Tell stories about relatives.
- 20. Have your child give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on.
- 21. Have your child download an audiobook to listen to in the car.
- 22. At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many apples are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.
- 23. Open a book or newspaper to a random page. What new words can your child find there? Look up their definitions together.
- 24. Take a map with you in the car or on a walk. Point out where you are headed and let your child help navigate.
- 25. Ask your child, “What is your favorite time of day? Why?”
- 26. Ask your child to suggest new words that should be in the dictionary.
- 27. Watch your child’s favorite show together. Ask questions, such as “What would you have done in that situation?”
- 28. Learn the symptoms of eating disorders. Help your child develop healthy eating habits.
- 29. Talk about one thing you admire most about your child as a student.
- 30. Avoid labeling your child (Emerson is the shy one). Kids tend to live up to roles cast for them by their families.
- 31. Discuss your child’s accomplishments over the past school year.

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