

Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
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June • July • August 2024

June 2024

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

- 1. Challenge your child to list all the planets in order.
- 2. Ask your child, "What assignments from this past school year do you think you'll remember five years from now?"
- 3. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz each other at the dinner table.
- 4. Encourage your child to record the highlights of the summer in a journal.
- 5. Ask your child, "What would you like to learn this summer?"
- 6. Spend 20 minutes on DEAR time today (Drop Everything and Read).
- 7. Does your child know how to swim? Sign up for lessons.
- 8. Assume that your child is listening when you speak to others, and avoid making negative comments about your middle schooler.
- 9. Choose a long word and see how many smaller words your child can make from its letters.
- 10. Read nutrition labels with your child. How many servings of chips are in that bag? If your child eats the whole bag, is it a healthy choice?
- 11. Have your child write something creative, such as a story, a poem, a song or even a comic strip.
- 12. Plan a special activity to celebrate the end of the school year. Take your child out for a treat or serve a favorite meal.
- 13. Encourage your middle schooler to do a surprise act of kindness today. Then, ask how it made your child feel.
- 14. Reinforce the fact that setbacks are temporary, and your child can make a fresh start and succeed.
- 15. Give your child a hug today and every day.
- 16. Have your child decorate a shoe box to store summer mementos.
- 17. Help your child research schools that offer the programs or training necessary to enter a career of interest.
- 18. Ask your child, "If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?"
- 19. Discuss priorities and how your child sets them.
- 20. Encourage interest in math and science by pointing out similarities between your child and role models in those fields.
- 21. Establish summer rules about where your child is allowed to go and when, and be clear that all exceptions must be approved by you.
- 22. Give your child a say about chore assignments. Post a chart as a reminder of responsibilities.
- 23. Start a family journal of highlights and accomplishments.
- 24. Make sure your child drinks plenty of water when working, playing or exercising in summer heat.
- 25. Ask your child to imagine what life would be like if the camera had never been invented.
- 26. Encourage your child to write online reviews for products your family uses. Feedback is a common purpose for writing.
- 27. Have your child note the temperature at the same time each day for a week, then figure out the average temperature.
- 28. Look over your child's summer reading list. Plan to read some of the books yourself.
- 29. With your child, find out the origins of the names of each month.
- 30. Do some storytelling as a family. Middle schoolers love to hear stories about when their parents were kids.

July 2024

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- 1. Watch the national news as a family. Ask each person to express an opinion about a story.
- 2. Are you away from home during the day? Talk with your child about what to do during an emergency.
- 3. Build familiarity with the high school your child will attend. Call and ask if you and your child can take a tour. Read the website together.
- 4. Read the *Declaration of Independence* with your child today. Talk about why it was written.
- 5. Ask your child to tell you about a time when telling the truth was hard.
- 6. Have your child play a favorite song. Listen to the lyrics and discuss what you hear.
- 7. Make some lemonade and read outside with your child today.
- 8. Ask your child, "Would you rather have 23 hundred-dollar bills, 48 tens and 9 ones, or 26 hundreds, 17 tens and 22 ones?"
- 9. Is your child turning into a summer couch potato? Limit screen time and encourage outdoor activity.
- 10. Tell your child about your day in as much detail as you would like to hear about your child's day.
- 11. Ask your child, "What makes a house a home?"
- 12. Compliment something about your child's appearance today.
- 13. Help your child learn about the sections of an orchestra. Then, listen to some classical music.
- 14. Suggest that your child write a descriptive story about middle school life.
- 15. Plant a family garden—outside or on the windowsill—with your child. Include at least one fruit or vegetable plant.
- 16. Kids may say, "Everyone else is doing it." Don't cave in—say, "Well, we aren't."
- 17. If your middle schooler could open a store, what kind would it be? How would your child attract customers?
- 18. Encourage your child to read about young teens who are making a difference. Ask a librarian for suggestions.
- 19. Walk a mile or a kilometer with your child. Before you start, estimate how long it will take.
- 20. Visit a museum together, in person or online.
- 21. Have your child show you a favorite app. Explore it together.
- 22. Will your child need a back-to-school physical? Make an appointment today.
- 23. Ask your child, "If you could improve one thing about yourself, what would it be?"
- 24. Kids need some time alone with their thoughts. Suggest activities your child can do alone.
- 25. Does your middle schooler want a special privilege? Challenge your child to write a persuasive proposal.
- 26. Ask your child, "If you could meet anyone from history, who would it be? What would you say?"
- 27. Have your child draw a picture of something inspiring.
- 28. Look online for a festival or event that highlights a culture other than your own. Plan to attend as a family.
- 29. Talk with your child about a historic event that you remember.
- 30. Improve communication with your child by listening attentively.
- 31. Discuss a time when your child's persistence led to success.

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August 2024

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- 1. Tell your child a story that teaches a moral lesson.
- 2. Check your middle schooler's list of summer goals. Help your child make plans to achieve any that are still unmet.
- 3. Read a news story about a community issue. Discuss it together.
- 4. Encourage your child to look online for a simple science experiment you can do together at home.
- 5. Many clubs and activities start before school begins. Check with the school for a schedule.
- 6. Teach your child that people remember the words you use. Insulting language will lower others' opinions of your child.
- 7. Will your child need supplies for school? Check the school website for a list of what's needed. Have your child help you shop for the best buys.
- 8. Cut a few sentences from a magazine into separate words and scramble them. Can your child put them back together?
- 9. Help your child establish a study spot at home.
- 10. Resume your child's school-year sleeping schedule. Have your student go to bed earlier and get up earlier in the morning.
- 11. Enjoy some outdoor physical activity as a family today.
- 12. Ask your child, "Are there any questions you would like to ask me?"
- 13. Eat at least one meal as a family today. Turn off all devices and talk.
- 14. If your child will be riding the school bus, make sure you both know where and when it will stop.
- 15. Do everyday tasks with your child to gain more time together, such as washing dishes.
- 16. Establish rules about recreational screen use on school days.
- 17. Take time for a bedside chat with your child tonight. End it by saying, "I love you."
- 18. Give your child a planner that has enough space to write daily homework assignments.
- 19. When you are having a conversation, don't talk for more than 30 seconds at a time before letting your child have a turn.
- 20. Discuss your child's goals for the coming school year. Post the list where you and your child can see it often.
- 21. List all the ways your middle schooler makes you proud. Share the list with your child.
- 22. Look for a skill you and your child can learn together. It's a fun way to get to know your child on a new level.
- 23. Write upcoming school events on your calendar. Plan to attend as many as you can.
- 24. Let your child pick some nutritious after-school snacks to have on hand.
- 25. Ask your child, "What's one thing you have never done that you would really like to do this year?"
- 26. Make your home a learning place. Offer your child books and simple art supplies and other outlets for curiosity and creativity.
- 27. Be a part of the school team. Join the parent-teacher group.
- 28. Talk with your child about how you appreciate your education. Or, talk about why you wish you'd learned more.
- 29. The middle school years are full of changes. Don't be surprised if your child wants to swap favorite old activities for new ones.
- 30. Revive effective school-year morning routines.
- 31. Help your child brainstorm conversation starters.

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