

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

**June • July • August 2025**

## June 2025

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

- ☐ 1. Ask your middle schooler to record the summer. Your child can take photos, keep a journal or make a vlog.
- ☐ 2. If you give your child an allowance, do an annual review. If you decide to give more, expect more responsibility in return.
- ☐ 3. Encourage your child to think and talk about abstract concepts, such as *freedom, justice* and *character*.
- ☐ 4. Is your child shy? Encourage your student to seek out someone who looks uneasy, smile and start up a conversation.
- ☐ 5. Challenge your child to think like an archeologist. What might one say about the people in your home, based on items found there?
- ☐ 6. Keep a world map or globe visible in your home. Your child will learn by seeing it regularly.
- ☐ 7. Can your child name all the planets? If not, look them up together.
- ☐ 8. Learn a strategy game, such as mancala, with your child. Play it often during summer vacation.
- ☐ 9. Ask for your child's help with a home maintenance project.
- ☐ 10. Make your child responsible for maintaining a schedule this summer. Encourage your student to write it down on a personal calendar.
- ☐ 11. Talk to your child about the importance of thinking things through before making a decision.
- ☐ 12. Compliment something about your child's appearance today.
- ☐ 13. Explain the concept of paying interest for loans. Show your child how to look up the current rates at nearby banks.
- ☐ 14. Enjoy some outdoor physical activity as a family today.
- ☐ 15. Ask your child to tell you how washing hands helps prevent the spread of diseases.
- ☐ 16. Have your child circle all the verbs in a news or magazine article.
- ☐ 17. With your child, learn something new about your town, state or province.
- ☐ 18. Does your child need more responsibility? More time to talk? More privacy? Ask what your student thinks.
- ☐ 19. Ask your child, "What would you like to change about the world? What would it take to do it?"
- ☐ 20. Does your child have a summer reading list? Post it and have your student check off books after reading them.
- ☐ 21. Show your child how to read a road map.
- ☐ 22. With your child, make an I'm Bored Box. Fill it with craft activities and fun things to read.
- ☐ 23. Encourage your child to compose something creative, such as a story, a poem, a song or a comic strip.
- ☐ 24. Schedule regular trips to the library this summer. Keep library books in one place so they don't get lost.
- ☐ 25. Look at a world map together. Point to a region your child has never visited. What does your student know about it?
- ☐ 26. Don't try to be *too* understanding. Your child needs your adult guidance more than a friend who just agrees.
- ☐ 27. Visit the website of a local chamber of commerce or civic association to find historic places in your area. Plan to visit one this summer.
- ☐ 28. Before your child visits a friend's home, make sure there will be adult supervision.
- ☐ 29. Let your child include a friend in a family activity.
- ☐ 30. Ask if your child wants help before giving advice.

# July 2025

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- 1. Teach your child to read utility meters or bills and track the amount of water, gas and/or electricity your family uses.
- 2. Suggest that your child ask friends what they are reading. It may provide motivation and some fresh ideas for books to try.
- 3. Encourage your child to keep active this summer by swimming, walking, running, etc. Do it together.
- 4. Read the Declaration of Independence with your child today. Talk about why it was written.
- 5. Talk about privacy, and when it is and is not appropriate to share personal information, such as your home address.
- 6. Ask your child to tell you about a friend who has a similar sense of humor. What makes them laugh?
- 7. Will your child need a physical for school? Make an appointment today.
- 8. Strive to maintain open communication your child. It will help you through the teen years.
- 9. At the grocery store, talk with your child about the kinds of things that affect food prices.
- 10. Help your child find an audiobook or a podcast that would be enjoyable to listen to.
- 11. Give your child a box of cereal. Ask, "If you eat one serving a day for 25 days, how many total calories will you take in?"
- 12. Let your child be your tour guide this summer. Have your student plan a family outing.
- 13. Tonight, take turns reading aloud from favorite books.
- 14. Ask your child to support a strong opinion with facts.
- 15. Give three reasons why being with your child makes you happy.
- 16. Keep a supply of reading material in a bag for when you and your child may have to wait somewhere, like a doctor's office.
- 17. Praise something your child is doing well this summer.
- 18. Ask your child to describe an ideal day. How would it differ from a typical day?
- 19. Together, enjoy a frosty treat like a smoothie or an ice cream cone.
- 20. Have your child list favorite songs, TV shows and books. Look back later and see how your student's opinions have changed.
- 21. Challenge your child to give an example of an *adjective* and an *adverb*.
- 22. Will your child need back-to-school clothes? Set a budget and guidelines and let your student make some choices within them.
- 23. Check the summer reading list. Is your child making progress?
- 24. Agree on an adult friend that your child can talk to for advice if asking you seems uncomfortable.
- 25. Make today a device-free day. Put your child in charge of planning alternative activities.
- 26. Introduce your child to historical fiction. The characters can offer a new perspective and make history relatable.
- 27. Have your child estimate items' weights, then weigh them to check.
- 28. To make a point with your middle schooler, state your view and explain your reasoning, but don't insist on agreement.
- 29. Get up early and watch the sunrise with your child.
- 30. Encourage your child to look online for a simple science experiment you can do together at home.
- 31. Instead of requiring your child to finish a book that's boring, help find one that's more enjoyable.

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# August 2025

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

- 1. Volunteer to drive carpool to one of your child's activities. You can learn a lot by listening.
- 2. Ask your child to plan and schedule a fun family evening at home.
- 3. Keep a bowl of sliced raw vegetables in the refrigerator. If you make it easy, your child may eat more healthy foods.
- 4. Play a paraphrase game. Take turns recounting events of the day. Before sharing news, each player must summarize what the previous person said.
- 5. Think about your family's school-year rules now. Discuss rules and consequences with your child before misbehavior occurs.
- 6. Read a book together whose main character is a positive role model.
- 7. Reestablish a school-year sleep schedule now.
- 8. If your child will be riding the school bus, make sure you both know where and when the bus will stop.
- 9. Have your child list five personal learning goals to accomplish in the coming school year. Post the list where your child studies.
- 10. Promote accountability. Encourage your child to think before agreeing to something. Will your child be able to follow through?
- 11. Encourage your child to take a stand against cruelty.
- 12. Middle schoolers are figuring out who they are. Your child may try on views that oppose yours. Stay calm, listen and offer loving guidance.
- 13. Talk together about your child's priorities. Share yours.
- 14. To encourage a reluctant talker to share information, keep your questions short and open-ended. "What feels challenging this week?"
- 15. Establish a place where your child should put things that need to go back to school the next day.
- 16. Make tonight a device-free night. Read instead.
- 17. Give your child a planner to keep track of school assignments.
- 18. Go window shopping with your child—just to look, but not buy. You may learn things about each other.
- 19. Have your child keep track of the prices of two grocery items for a month. What is the price trend?
- 20. Talk with your child about the things you did this summer. What are three things you'll each remember?
- 21. Write upcoming school events on your family calendar. Make plans to attend as many as you can.
- 22. As the school year begins, ask how families can help out, at school or at home. Plan to volunteer.
- 23. Ask if your child has questions or concerns about school, and work together to find answers.
- 24. Plan a special activity to celebrate the beginning of the school year.
- 25. Discuss fall routines. Plan to eat at least one meal a day as a family.
- 26. Base academic expectations on your own child, not others. Work with the teachers to set expectations that are challenging *and* realistic.
- 27. Students' motivation in school usually has ups and downs. Consistent support from you will see your child through the lows.
- 28. With your child, discuss the importance of doing the *right* thing, rather than the *easy* thing.
- 29. Urge your child to focus on one thing at a time. Multitasking often leads to decreased productivity and increased stress.
- 30. Explain to your child that part of being a responsible student is asking for help when it's needed.
- 31. Let your child see you being honest, dependable and accountable.

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