

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

**June • July • August 2026**

## June 2026

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

1. Post a summer reading list in a special place. Encourage your child to check off each completed book.
2. Praise your child for doing something today. Be as specific as possible.
3. Make a video of your child reading a story aloud.
4. Take reading materials with you wherever you go with your child. Read together while waiting for the bus or at the doctor's office.
5. Create a board game with your child. Use poster board, markers, index cards and dice.
6. At the grocery store, let your child pick out an unfamiliar vegetable. Find a recipe and give it a try.
7. Look for an age-appropriate movie about life in another country. Watch it ask a family.
8. With your child, learn how to count to 10 in three different languages.
9. Have your elementary schooler look up the word *integrity* in the dictionary. Discuss its meaning.
10. Watch the news on TV with your child. Choose one story and compare it with an article on the same topic.
11. Challenge your child to write a news article about a family event.
12. Heads or tails? Have your child predict the results of flipping a coin 10 times, then try it and see.
13. Write math facts on index cards for summer practice. For a start, have your child solve related facts (5+6 and 11-5) or doubles (2+2, 7+7).
14. Start a sentence-a-day story. In a special notebook, have your child write a story by adding one sentence each day.
15. Summer is just a few days away. With your child, make a list of five free, fun things to do as a family this summer.
16. What's inside a seed? Have your child soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coat and pull the halves apart to find out.
17. How far can your child jump? How many jumps does it take to go around your home?
18. Talk to your child about substance abuse. Discuss why it's vital to avoid using drugs, alcohol and tobacco products, and ways things to say *no*.
19. Ask your child to put your spice jars or canned goods in alphabetical order.
20. Visit the library as a family. Check out books about science.
21. Together, plan your child's screen use for the week. Set limits to allow screen-free time for reading, playing, relaxing and talking with family.
22. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?" Together, learn more about this location.
23. Read a story aloud with your child. Take turns reading sentences or pages.
24. Measure your elementary schooler's height. Keep a record, then measure again in December and compare.
25. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
26. Help your child fill a glass with water and 10 drops of food coloring. Place a white flower in the glass. The flower will change color overnight!
27. Sign your child up for a summer reading program at the library.
28. Have a Family Night In. Everyone gets to curl up with a good book and a healthy snack.
29. Together, make a chore chart. List chores your child is responsible for and when they should be completed.
30. Teach your child how to sew on a button today. It's a useful life skill, and it strengthens small motor skills.

# July 2026

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

1. Plan a family trip to a nearby museum or historic site.
2. Fill glasses with different amounts of water. Have your child tap them with a metal spoon and listen to the different tones.
3. Cut or print out four pictures from a newspaper or magazine. Ask your child to tell you a story that involves something from each picture.
4. Ask your child what the word *independence* means. What are your child's favorite freedoms?
5. Look for a book on a hobby that interests your child. Read it together.
6. If your child needs a physical for school, make an appointment now.
7. Help your child create a scrapbook of papers and photos from the past school year.
8. Together, make a list of free, fun outdoor activities. Instead of screen time, let your child choose something from the list.
9. Have family members comb their hair, then use the static electricity in the comb to pick up tiny bits of paper.
10. Review sun safety rules with your child, such as wearing sunscreen and a hat. Be sure to follow them together.
11. Put various objects on a tray and have your child look at them. Then, cover the tray with a towel. How many items can your child remember?
12. Help your child make a fruit salad that includes at least one new or unfamiliar fruit.
13. Discuss bravery. Talk about times when your child tackled a challenge bravely, such as learning to ride a bike.
14. Fill small balloons with water and play catch outside together.
15. Help your child create a family newsletter by interviewing family members and writing articles.

16. Talk about an activity you enjoyed at your child's age. Do it together if possible.
17. Have an apple taste-test. Get different types of apples to try with your child. Describe their appearances, tastes and smells.
18. At the grocery store, ask your child to choose three cereals, then read the labels to find the one with the most fiber and the least sugar.
19. Have your child read you a story while you make dinner.
20. Ask your child, "If you could be a famous person in history, who would you be? Why?"
21. Say "I love you" to your child today and every day.
22. Play a picture charades game. Take turns secretly choosing a book, movie or activity. Draw pictures to help others guess what you're thinking.
23. Take an early morning walk with your child. How many different colors can you spot?
24. Read a book aloud that is a little too challenging for your child to read alone.
25. Have an outdoor adventure day. Visit a zoo, park or playground.
26. On a road trip, try to spot all the letters of the alphabet on license plates.
27. Ask each person in your family to write a *noun*, a *verb* and an *adjective*. Take turns putting all the words into one sentence.
28. Explain to your child that it's OK to express feelings, but not OK to sulk.
29. Talk together about favorite styles of music and why you each like them.
30. Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Do math problems outside together.
31. Have your child decorate a paper plate to create a mask. Cut holes for eyes and mouth.

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# August 2026

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1. Check out back-to-school sales. Have your child look for the best buys.
2. Go online to find a free outdoor concert, movie or festival in your area. Plan to attend as a family.
3. Learn a tongue twister, such as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." Challenge your child to repeat it quickly.
4. Help your child draw a hopscotch game on a sidewalk. Write a word in each square. Take turns reading the words aloud as you hop.
5. See who can find the tiniest leaf or rock on a walk today.
6. Get your child back into a school sleep routine. Have your child go to bed earlier and wake up earlier in the morning.
7. Help your child think about things in new ways. Ask, "What would life be like if your eyes were in your feet?"
8. Visit the library together. Help your child check out books about careers that seem interesting.
9. Read a book aloud and have your child identify three unfamiliar words. Try to use them in conversation today.
10. Ask your child to help you plan a week's worth of healthy dinners.
11. Write a brief story and leave the punctuation out. Can your child add it so the story makes sense?
12. Give your child a magnifying glass and go on a bug hunt together.
13. Ask your child to name things in your home that come from plants.
14. Learn about the night sky. On a clear night, search for constellations with your child.
15. Research what events happened on the day your child was born. Go online together or use reference materials at the library.

16. With your child, invent a new rule for a favorite board game. Play it together.
17. Suggest that your child write to a favorite living author.
18. Set up a reading and study spot for your child. Stock it with paper, pencils and other school supplies.
19. Pull out all the change in your pocket or purse. Ask your child to add it up and practice making change.
20. Try to learn how to juggle with your child.
21. Measure things in silly units. How many forks long is your child's bed?
22. Let your child use medicine droppers and water dyed with food coloring to experiment with mixing colors.
23. Enjoy a "goodbye to summer" picnic today. Talk about the great times you had over the summer.
24. Help your child write and mail a letter to a friend.
25. Make leaf rubbings. Have your child place a leaf on a paper towel, cover it with thin paper and rub with a crayon.
26. Help your child make a few academic and personal goals for the new school year. Talk about strategies for working toward them.
27. Talk with your child about school bus safety.
28. Give your child a notebook or planner to keep track of assignments.
29. Plan an indoor campout. Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and read scary stories.
30. Sing a silly song with your child.
31. Ask what your child is looking forward to this school year.

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