

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help students
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 Students Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

1. Ask your child to keep a record of summer break activities by writing in a journal, taking photos or making a video.
2. Want to improve communication with your child? Be an attentive listener!
3. Decide on some educational goals your family can pursue together in the next few months.
4. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to teachers, coaches or other school staff who have made a difference this year.
5. Brainstorm together about a business your middle schooler could start this summer.
6. Go to the library and help your child find books about middle schoolers who have made a difference in the world.
7. Suggest that your child start a book club with friends.
8. Help your child open a bank account. Go over how to keep track of transactions on paper and by using the bank's website or app.
9. As a family, make a list of nearby places you want to visit this summer.
10. Remind your middle schooler not to reveal personal information online. Discuss what to do if your child receives texts or emails that ask for it.
11. Challenge your child to think of ways your family could reduce household waste.
12. Try to increase the number of times you eat meals as a family each week. If dinner is difficult to manage, eat breakfast together instead.
13. As you drive, talk about traffic safety rules with your child.
14. Take a family walk tonight after dinner. Listen for summer sounds.
15. Can your child name each of the United States? Canadian provinces?
16. Help your child investigate summer volunteer opportunities for young people in your area.
17. Discuss a family problem and brainstorm solutions together. Give each family member an opportunity to speak.
18. Encourage your child to choose favorite characters from any kind of media (shows, books, etc.) and write a story about them.
19. Ask how your child handles anger. Review positive ways to manage angry feelings.
20. Suggest that your child teach a younger child how to do a summer science experiment, such as comparing melting rates of ice cubes in water and air.
21. Make this week a Do Nice Things for People Week.
22. Keep an ear open for unfamiliar words when you and your child listen to the radio or watch TV. Look the words up and use them in conversation.
23. Teach your child how to make a favorite food.
24. Review and discuss your house rules for staying home alone with your middle schooler.
25. Play an active game with your child like basketball or pickleball.
26. Make an I'm Bored box. Fill it with craft supplies and reading material.
27. Make regular trips to the library together part of your summer schedule. This week, help your child find information about different careers.
28. Announce a screen-free day. Play board games and card games instead.
29. Ask your child to clean out a closet. Together, donate gently used clothing, toys and equipment to a charity.
30. Explain that if your child wants you to rethink a rule, it will be necessary for your middle schooler to build a case and present it to you.

July 2026

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1. Keep a supply of interesting reading material in a bag for long car trips.
2. Will your child need a back-to-school physical? Make an appointment today.
3. Have your child convert the miles you travel today into kilometers.
4. Read the Declaration of Independence with your child today. Talk about why it was written.
5. Ask your child to teach you a tech skill, such as how to make an online slideshow.
6. Let your child see you reading to learn, to find information and to relax. This teaches the lesson that reading is important, useful and fun.
7. Ask your child to create a schedule for completing weekly tasks.
8. Find someone who works in a career field that interests your child. See if your middle schooler could visit this person at work.
9. Have your child imagine taking a ride in a hot-air balloon over your neighborhood. What does the view from above look like? Ask for details.
10. Try to have a rhyming conversation with your child. It may be tough at first, but you'll get better at it!
11. Is your child's bedroom messy? Set a timer for your middle schooler to do a 15-minute clean-up blitz before moving on to a fun activity.
12. Try a new recipe with your child. It's a fun opportunity for middle schoolers to practice following written directions.
13. Have your child track time spent on screen activities today and plan ways to cut down tomorrow.
14. Ask your child to describe the perfect day. What makes it so special?
15. Challenge your child to research your community's history online or at the library and tell you something you didn't know.
16. Suggest that your child start a reading journal and write down thoughts about books and articles read this summer.
17. Ask your child to find information online about free local cultural activities for families. Plan to attend one together.
18. Challenge your child to build a bridge using only paper and tape that can support the weight of 25 pennies.
19. Make up a story with your child. Take turns adding sentences.
20. Ask, "What do you wish we did differently at home?" Be open to your child's suggestions.
21. Read the same mystery book with your child. Talk about it.
22. Let your child make cookies to share with a neighbor or friend.
23. Explore an old cemetery together. Talk about the time periods on the headstones.
24. Head outside and have a family water balloon fight this evening.
25. Review what your middle schooler should do in emergency situations.
26. Challenge your child to make a music video for a favorite song.
27. Ask your child, "What is one belonging you would never be willing to sell at any price?"
28. Does your child need something new to read? Suggest swapping favorite books with a friend.
29. Thank your child for helping out with chores today.
30. "Because I said so!" can be frustrating for middle schoolers to hear. Whenever possible, explain your reasoning.
31. Set a budget for back-to-school clothes and let your child make some choices.

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August 2026

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1. Ask your child to plan one special thing to do with you before school starts. Make arrangements to do it.
2. Encourage your child to look at the school's website for information about extracurricular activities and choose one to try this year.
3. With your child, pick an important news event to follow for a few days. Talk about what you have learned.
4. Brainstorm together about tough situations that middle schoolers might face. How would your child handle them?
5. Talk with your child about plans for the day.
6. Encourage your child to write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper or news website about a topic of concern to students.
7. Challenge family members to walk someplace instead of driving or being driven.
8. Think of a skill you and your child would like to learn together. Check out a how-to book at the library or look for a YouTube video tutorial.
9. Challenge your child to figure out the average of something, such as the number of pages in the books on the summer reading list.
10. Resume a school-year sleeping schedule. Have your child go to bed earlier and get up earlier in the morning.
11. Ask your child, "What do you think is the greatest invention?"
12. Play a game of charades as a family.
13. Look through old family photos. Tell your child stories about relatives.
14. Check with the school to see how families can help out. Plan to volunteer in the year to come.
15. Go on a family picnic. Bring books, and relax and read after you eat.
16. Help your child organize a neighborhood dog wash or car wash.
17. Plan to email your child's teachers to introduce yourself in the first few weeks of school.
18. Talk to your child about joining a community youth organization this fall, such as scouting or 4-H.
19. Discuss dating and "hooking up." Share your values and standards.
20. Take a map in the car or on a walk. Put your child in charge of navigating to your destination.
21. Have your child pay attention to often overlooked features of a book. When and where was it published?
22. Take notice when your child works hard. Say that it makes you proud.
23. Teach your child a favorite song from when you were a preteen.
24. Do you have a supply of nutritious after-school snacks on hand? Have your child help you pick them out.
25. Ask your child, "What are three important things you learned this summer?"
26. Have your child make a list of favorites in categories such as songs, TV shows and books. Look back later and see how opinions have changed.
27. Say something positive about your child when your child can overhear.
28. Discuss your family's fall routine. Make it a priority to eat at least one meal a day together.
29. Introduce your child to historical fiction. It's a meaningful way to put a human face on events of the past.
30. Help your child establish a comfortable, well-lit "study nook."
31. Discuss recent world events at the dinner table.

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