

Daily Learning Planner

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

Gadsden City Schools



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2026

September 2026

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

1. Have your child color code class materials by using a different color folder for each class. If the class has a textbook, your child can cover it to match.
2. It's Library Card Sign-Up Month. Does your child have a library card? If not, make a trip to the library soon to get one.
3. With your child, decide on a daily homework and study time.
4. Put a current picture of your child in a visible place. This says, "You're important to me!"
5. As a family, create a morning routine that will make mornings easier for everyone.
6. Help your elementary schooler get into the habit of cleaning out school bags every weekend. Your child will start the week organized.
7. Let your child choose what chore to do this week from a list of options.
8. It's International Literacy Day. Help your child find a book or article to read on a topic of interest.
9. Solve a real-world math problem with your child, such as how to double a recipe.
10. Make a "one-a-day" rule: Family members will eat at least one meal together every day.
11. Discuss the importance of education and make it clear you expect your child's best effort in school.
12. Find out about upcoming events for families at school and make plans to attend at least one.
13. Think of *synonyms* (words with the same or similar meanings) with your child, such as *walk/stroll* and *stop/halt*.
14. Expect your child to study or read every day, even if no assignments are due the next day.
15. Help your child practice estimating. How many popcorn kernels will fit in your hand? How many grains of rice will fit in a tablespoon?
16. Encourage your child to write an email or letter to a faraway friend or relative.
17. Solve a crossword puzzle with your child.
18. Take advantage of opportunities to talk with your child while doing chores or errands together.
19. Teach your child a new life skill, such as how to do laundry.
20. Suggest that your child keep a notebook handy when reading and jot down unknown words to look up later.
21. Ask who your child's role models are and why.
22. It's officially fall. Go for a walk together and look for seasonal changes.
23. Help your child make a monthly budget.
24. Ask about something your child is reading. What are the characters like?
25. Is your child turning assignments in on time? Praise this responsible behavior.
26. Try a new kind of exercise with your child.
27. Choose a recipe with your middle schooler. Shop for ingredients, cook and enjoy the results together.
28. Ask your child to tell you about one of tonight's assignments. Make this a daily habit.
29. Make an album or slideshow of family photos with your child. Tell stories about the people and occasions in them.
30. Find an unfamiliar word in the dictionary. Can your family use it three times today?

October 2026

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1. Learn a magic trick with your child.
2. Ask how your child feels the school year is going so far.
3. Offer to drive when your child is going somewhere with friends. Quietly listening can provide insight into your child's life.
4. Establish a regular bedtime for your child. Making it part of an overall nighttime routine will make it easier to stick to.
5. Allow your middle schooler some privacy. Knock before entering your child's room.
6. Teach your child a game that involves math skills, such as chess or mah-jongg.
7. Challenge your child to use the dictionary to find as many five-syllable words as possible in 10 minutes.
8. Take a family walk. Have your child use a compass or compass app to keep track of which way you are going.
9. Designate a place in your home to keep library books. Your child will always know where to look for something to read.
10. Make a supply kit for school projects with your child. Keeping basic items on hand can reduce last-minute shopping trips.
11. Say "thank you" for something your middle schooler did today.
12. Mention how something you studied in school has helped you at work.
13. Ask what the word *success* means to your middle schooler. Discuss different ways to think about success.
14. Show your child how to break large assignments into smaller, more manageable parts.
15. Challenge your child to tell you how washing hands prevents the spread of many diseases.
16. When shopping with your child, demonstrate how you use math to find the best deals.
17. Have each member of your family create a collage from magazine pictures. See if family members can guess who made which one.
18. Ask what activity your child most enjoys doing as a family. Plan to do it.
19. National School Bus Safety Week begins today. Review safety rules with your child.
20. Browse through your child's school books and talk about concepts your student is studying. Show enthusiasm and interest.
21. Talk with your child about mistakes. What are some ways people can learn from their mistakes?
22. Ask your child, "Who is your favorite author and why?"
23. Let your child take over a new responsibility. Explain why your middle schooler is ready.
24. It's Make a Difference Day. Talk about ways your family could help make your community a nicer place.
25. Ask your child a thought-provoking question, such as "What do you think food will be like in the future?"
26. Start a long-term project with your child, such as a jigsaw puzzle. Don't give up.
27. Admit and apologize to your child when you're wrong.
28. Ask about your child's hardest school subject. What might make it easier?
29. Start a family scrapbook.
30. Help your child make a savings plan for a special purchase.
31. Schedule some one-on-one time with your child today.

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November 2026

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1. Have your child play a favorite song. Listen to the lyrics and discuss what you hear.
2. Review the consequences for breaking family rules. Understanding consequences in advance can discourage kids from misbehaving.
3. Challenge your child to run a 30-yard dash. Time the run and encourage your middle schooler to keep practicing to get faster.
4. Help your child set a specific goal and plan steps to take to reach it.
5. Review what your child should do in case of a fire in your home.
6. Each evening, have your child place items that go back to school by the door. This prevents frantic searches in the morning.
7. Talk with your middle schooler about one of your values. Family opinions do matter to kids.
8. Look at a newspaper with your child. Discuss which articles look interesting and read one together.
9. Say "I love you" to your child at least twice a day. Before and after school are ideal times.
10. Make a list of healthy breakfast-on-the-go foods your child can grab on the way out the door before school.
11. Have your child help you research a major family purchase. List important features and ask your child to find the best deal.
12. Make eye contact while your child talks to you. This shows that you're paying attention.
13. Ask your middle schooler to think of several places where it would be interesting to volunteer. Have your child call each to ask for information.
14. Go to the library with your child. Each of you check out a book.
15. Ask what qualities your child looks for in a friend.
16. Talk with your child about whether classes are challenging enough.
17. Give your child some graph paper to use when doing math. It helps students keep columns of numbers neat.
18. Take your child to a high school sporting event. Talk about your middle schooler's goals for high school.
19. Talk with your child about the pros and cons of social media use. Monitor your child's activities online often.
20. Ask your child's opinion about something, and what led to it. Listen respectfully before sharing your own opinion.
21. Brainstorm ideas together for a delicious new flavor of ice cream.
22. Ask your child, "How is your life outside of school going?"
23. Play a memory game with your child. Try to remember the things you each did the day before yesterday.
24. Notice things that cause your child stress. Discuss ways to ease stress, such as exercise, deep breathing and talking problems through.
25. Choose a movie based on a book. Read the book as a family, then watch the film.
26. At dinner, have family members take turns naming three things they are thankful for.
27. Talk about stereotypes with your child. Discuss why they're unfair.
28. Take a look at your child's study spot. Is the space organized and free of distractions?
29. Encourage your child to make daily to-do lists. After completing each item, your student should check it off.
30. Ask your child a specific question about school, such as "Which class is your favorite?"

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