

# Daily Learning Planner

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

PENNCREST School District  
Cambridge Springs, Maplewood, Saegertown



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

December • January • February 2020-2021

## December 2020

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

- 1. Create and keep a family journal. Everyone can share thoughts, reminders and accomplishments.
- 2. Count down to a special event. Use paper strips to make a chain, with one link for every day. Let your child remove one link each night.
- 3. Ask your child to write your shopping list before you go to the grocery store.
- 4. Make today Dictionary Day. Talk with your child about new words that she thinks should be in the dictionary.
- 5. Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- 6. Make an "I Am Special" scrapbook with your child.
- 7. Build a house of cards with your child. Challenge him to make the base as stable as possible.
- 8. Ask your child to name a low-cost activity that she would like to make an annual family tradition. Then start it!
- 9. Have an indoor snowball fight with cotton balls.
- 10. Holidays have you stressed? Ask your child to help. As kids share the responsibility, they appreciate the outcome even more.
- 11. Let your child blow up a balloon and then pop it. Together, research why it makes a loud noise.
- 12. Give your child a piece of paper to decorate using paint and sponges. Use his finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- 13. Look online or at the library for a chart of the phases of the moon. Together, compare what you see each night to the chart.
- 14. Help your child clean out her closet and pass on gently-used toys or clothes to other families.
- 15. Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- 16. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you.
- 17. Teach your child how to change the batteries in a flashlight.
- 18. Wash hands with your child before each meal. Talk about the importance of frequent hand washing.
- 19. Help your child make flash cards for vocabulary words.
- 20. Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- 21. Discuss ways you use numbers at home every day, such as when paying bills or setting the kitchen timer.
- 22. Tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
- 23. Challenge your child to make music by strumming on stretched rubber bands.
- 24. Create a word search by hiding words in a grid and surrounding them with random letters. Let your child find the words.
- 25. Listen to music in the dark together and concentrate on the sounds.
- 26. Emphasize the importance of writing thank-you notes for gifts.
- 27. Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.
- 28. Discourage sibling arguments by having your children switch sides when they disagree.
- 29. Ask your child *how* and *why* questions to give him experience answering questions that require reasoning.
- 30. Ask family members, "If you were an animal, which animal would you be and why?"
- 31. Measure your child. How much did she grow this year?

# January 2021

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

- 1. Help your child set a goal for 2021 and plan how to achieve it.
- 2. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then switch roles.
- 3. Ask your child how he feels today. Talk about feelings.
- 4. Encourage your child to start a diary or journal this year.
- 5. Ask your child to do some real-life math. If your car has a 14-gallon gas tank and can go 336 miles per tankful, how far can it go on one gallon?
- 6. Help your child go online to research events that occurred on the day she was born.
- 7. Find an item small enough to fit in your child's pocket. Have him write a story about it.
- 8. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.
- 9. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for children your child's age.
- 10. Have everyone in the family spend 30 minutes picking up the house. Many hands make light work.
- 11. Make an "emergency reading kit" for the car. Pack books and magazines your child can read when she has to wait somewhere.
- 12. Good report card? High grade on a test? Crown your achiever "Monarch for a Day."
- 13. Discuss your child's courage. List times when he tackled challenges bravely, such as learning to ride a bike.
- 14. When shopping, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the better buy?
- 15. Let your child pick what to wear and where to study today.
- 16. Have family members make a list of their strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 17. Help your child set up dominoes in a pattern and then let her knock them down.
- 18. Keep screen devices turned off today. Have your child choose some alternative activities.
- 19. Show your child which way is *north, south, east* and *west*.
- 20. Find pictures of people doing things. Ask your child to write captions.
- 21. Ask your child to pick five *adjectives* to describe himself.
- 22. Watch a TV show together. Have your child track the time spent on commercials vs. the program.
- 23. Help your child plan ahead. Talk about next weekend. What needs to be done to prepare for a family activity?
- 24. Talk with your child about mistakes. How can people learn from them?
- 25. Practice estimating. How many cookies in the package? How many carrots in the bag?
- 26. Today, have your child keep track of everything she eats. What one change would make her diet more nutritious?
- 27. Set aside a half hour for writing with your child today.
- 28. Discuss the people your child admires. Ask why he admires them.
- 29. Make a chore chart with your child. List chores she's responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 30. Teach your child how to take his pulse. Then have him jump up and down 50 times and take it again.
- 31. Ask your child how she helped others today.

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# February 2021

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

- 1. Solve math problems with yummy treats. Use raisins or mini marshmallows for adding and subtracting.
- 2. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite school staff member this month.
- 3. Pick a new word out of the dictionary. Everyone try to use that word at least three times today.
- 4. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 5. Set a timer and see if your child can "beat the clock" while completing a household task.
- 6. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another at the dinner table.
- 7. Ask your child to create a comic strip of a story he knows.
- 8. Discuss the meaning of a *dozen* and *half a dozen*. What things are often sold in dozens?
- 9. With your child, read the same news story in two different publications. Compare the versions.
- 10. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
- 11. Give your child the responsibility of putting her clean clothes away.
- 12. Begin telling your child a story. When you get to an exciting part, stop talking and let him make up the rest.
- 13. Put three items in a bag. Have your child and a friend use them as props for a five-minute skit.
- 14. Learn how to say "I love you" in at least three other languages. Share this with your child.
- 15. Ask your child to tell you her favorite time of year.
- 16. Ask each person in your family to write a noun or adjective. Challenge your child to use all the words in one sentence.
- 17. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- 18. Play a board game with your child. Encourage him to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.
- 19. List three of your child's successes this week. List three of your own. Look at the list whenever one of you is feeling down.
- 20. Help your child interview people working in career fields that interest her. What is a typical day like in their job?
- 21. Ask your child to read you a review of a movie he would like to see.
- 22. With your child, fold paper to make different types of airplanes. Predict which ones will fly the best, then test and see.
- 23. Challenge family members to write, eat or do other activities with the hand they don't favor.
- 24. Play Concentration with homemade flash cards. Math problems with the same answer make a pair ( $9 \times 2$  and  $15 + 3$ ).
- 25. In the kitchen, have your child look for certain letters or words on food packages.
- 26. Ask your child to complete this sentence: "If I had one wish, it would be ... ."
- 27. Help your child pick two books to check out from the library. Choose some books for yourself, too!
- 28. Talk with your child about laws. Why do we need them? What would happen if we didn't have them?

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