

# Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help children  
prepare for school

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

- 1. Have an indoor picnic. Ask your child to name the items you'll need, such as a blanket, plates, napkins, etc.
- 2. How do the trees look today? Talk about how things look different when the trees have lost their leaves.
- 3. Help your child make a snowman out of three marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti.
- 4. Use a glue stick to write your child's name on construction paper. Let her stick cereal pieces or dried beans on the wet glue.
- 5. Go on a pretend trip to the zoo. Talk about different animals you might see there.
- 6. Ask about your child's favorite winter activity; plan to do it together.
- 7. Work on a puzzle with your child.
- 8. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself today. Was he feeling happy, sad, confused, angry?
- 9. Read a fairy tale with your child. Talk about her favorite parts of the story.
- 10. Give your child some three-step directions to follow, such as, "Go inside, take off your shoes and put them in the closet."
- 11. Ask your child to tell you the three best things about himself.
- 12. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you only see in December—for example, holiday decorations and lights.
- 13. Have your child stand on one foot. Count how long she can balance. Now have her try the other foot.
- 14. Have your child paint one paper plate yellow, one green and one red. Glue each on a long stick or tube. Teach him about traffic signals.
- 15. Ask categorical questions. For example, what sleeps? (*animals, people*) What glows? (*stars, the moon*)
- 16. Help your child weigh herself. Now weigh a large toy. Which is heavier?
- 17. Have your child draw a family portrait.
- 18. Go on a color shopping trip. Make a list of colors with your child. Together, try to find one item of each color in your house.
- 19. Show your child how to strum a spoon across the ridges on a piece of corrugated cardboard to make a rhythmic sound.
- 20. Read a story to your child and use a different voice for each character.
- 21. Give your child a piece of string. Challenge him to find three things that are longer than the string and three things that are shorter.
- 22. When serving food, talk about how you divide it. "There are two of us and one apple. We'll cut it into halves."
- 23. Look out the window at the sun. Talk with your child about why it appears to move as time passes.
- 24. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your child today.
- 25. Put on some lively music and get moving together.
- 26. Talk with your child about the very best present she ever received. What made it special?
- 27. Have your child use finger puppets to retell a story.
- 28. Teach your child how to make paper snowflakes. Use some to decorate your windows.
- 29. Discuss the meaning of *the past*. Looking at baby pictures will help your child understand this concept.
- 30. Trace your child's shoe on paper. Let him use crayons and imagination to turn the tracing into a funny picture.
- 31. Use empty paper towel rolls as megaphones. Together, shout out "Happy New Year!"