

# Daily Learning Planner

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

Elementary Schools  
PENNCREST School District



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2021

## March 2021

- 1. Choose an interesting "person of the week" to learn about. Read more about this person with your child.
- 2. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then let her pick a word.
- 3. Help your child find a website that demonstrates how to make something. Let him choose a project and try to follow the directions.
- 4. Have your child read a newspaper and report on a news story at dinner tonight.
- 5. Ask your child to list things that will break if dropped.
- 6. Have your child use the telephone number pad to make words. For example, 5-6-8-3 = Love.
- 7. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing a teacher ever said or did for you?"
- 8. Help your child collect yarn and fabric scraps. Put them in a mesh bag and hang the bag on a tree. See if birds take some to build a nest.
- 9. Challenge your child to invent something to make life easier.
- 10. Stand your child against a wall. Use a spoon as a ruler and see how many spoons tall she is.
- 11. Find the positive side of a difficult situation. For example, "This power outage is boring. Let's use a flashlight to write letters on the ceiling."
- 12. Ask your child to help you prepare a healthy meal.
- 13. Fly a kite together if the weather allows, or draw a picture of one and let your child decorate it.
- 14. Keep a notebook handy when watching TV. Have your child jot down new words and look them up later.
- 15. Have your child use a sports announcer voice as he reads aloud today.

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

- 16. Write an encouraging note and place it on your child's pillow.
- 17. Challenge your child to reorganize your food cupboard. Discuss different categories the food could be sorted into.
- 18. Make a crossword puzzle with your child to review spelling words.
- 19. Play Go Fish with your child.
- 20. Trace your child's shoe onto paper. Have her use markers or crayons to turn the tracing into a funny picture.
- 21. Ask your child to list five words that describe him. Are you surprised by what he listed?
- 22. When your child is unsuccessful, ask, "How would you do it differently next time?"
- 23. Ask your child to list ideas for a new flavor of ice cream.
- 24. When you watch TV with your child, get moving every time a commercial comes on. Jump up and down, run in place, do sit-ups.
- 25. Challenge your child to write an advertisement for a product she uses.
- 26. Ask your child to draw something that makes him happy.
- 27. Make raisins dance. Add a few to a glass of soda water. They will rise as bubbles collect and fall after bubbles pop at the surface.
- 28. Have your child check the weather. Plan an indoor or outdoor picnic.
- 29. Encourage creativity. Ask your child unusual questions: "What would you bring to a picnic in space?"
- 30. Cut the headline off a news article. Challenge your child to read the article and write her own headline.
- 31. Have your child point to a country on a world map. Together, figure out what time it is there.

# April 2021

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- 1. Measure how far your child can jump. How many jumps does it take to go around your home?
- 2. Give your child a small plant to take care of. Post the watering schedule.
- 3. Go outside with your child and look for signs that animals have been nearby.
- 4. Using permanent marker, help your child mark off inches on a straight-sided jar. Set it outside and see how many inches of rain fall this week.
- 5. Ask your child, "How do you decide who will be your friends?"
- 6. Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help him raise them before the year ends.
- 7. Have your child watch for changes in plant life in your neighborhood. Together, keep notes in a journal.
- 8. Ask your child: "What if ice cream grew on trees?"
- 9. Have your child hold her nose while she eats. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- 10. Make up a secret code with your child. Use the code to send messages to each other.
- 11. Spend a half hour reading together today. Let your child pick the book you will read.
- 12. Help your child learn some facts about undersea life.
- 13. Discuss different kinds of transportation that your child may be unfamiliar with, such as a ferry, subway or trolley.
- 14. Talk about the best and the worst parts of family members' days. Everyone gets a turn to talk.
- 15. Watch a TV show with your child. Ask questions such as, "Why do you think that character did that?"
- 16. Does your child know your state bird? If not, help him look it up.
- 17. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing you have ever done for someone else?"
- 18. Let your child help with a household chore today. Remember to say thank you.
- 19. A *rebus* is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a rebus with your child.
- 20. Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for school. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
- 21. Teach a card game to your child. Play it with the whole family tonight.
- 22. Experiment with photosynthesis. Block light from a plant leaf with a piece of masking tape. What happens?
- 23. Just for fun, serve a backwards dinner. Eat dessert first.
- 24. Brainstorm ways you and your child could help make your neighborhood more beautiful.
- 25. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety.
- 26. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 27. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats, shoes and old clothes.
- 28. Ask each family member to write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.
- 29. Challenge your child to describe today's weather without using the words hot, cold, cloudy, rainy or sunny.
- 30. Look over your child's assignments. Give compliments first, and then helpful criticism.

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# May 2021

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- 1. Review math facts by having your child write them on the driveway or sidewalk with chalk.
- 2. Think of an inspiring quotation you love. Post it where your child will see it.
- 3. Learn about *origami*—the Japanese art of paper folding. Together, try to make some interesting shapes.
- 4. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What do you think dogs think about?"
- 5. Notice punctuation. How many different types can your child spot today?
- 6. Show your child a new shape today. If he already knows the basics, introduce a *hexagon* (six sides) or *octagon* (eight sides.)
- 7. Ask your child to design a cover for a book.
- 8. Turn off digital devices this evening. Act out stories instead.
- 9. Shop for salad ingredients and pick one unfamiliar vegetable. At home, prepare the salad with your child.
- 10. Read three poems with your child today.
- 11. Ask your child to name 10 items that can be found in a dentist's office.
- 12. Talk about a familiar nearby place with your child. Decide which direction it is from your home—north, south, east or west.
- 13. Record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 14. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 15. Set aside time today to work on a hobby with your child.
- 16. Garden with your child today. Pull weeds, spread mulch, plant flowers outside. Or pot plants indoors.
- 17. Talk about *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *lead* (the metal) and *lead* (to go before).
- 18. Give family members marshmallows and uncooked spaghetti. See who can build the tallest tower.
- 19. Consider opening a savings account for your child. Ask the bank about special accounts for kids.
- 20. At dinner, have each family member say something nice about every person at the table.
- 21. Have your child read to you while you cook or do a chore today.
- 22. Freeze fruit juices in ice cube trays to make popsicles. Enjoy them with your child.
- 23. Visit the public library's website and look for an audiobook to download and listen to with your child.
- 24. Help your child set a goal for this week.
- 25. Even though it stays light later, stick with a bedtime that lets your child get at least nine hours of sleep each night.
- 26. Let your child see you reading. Then say, "Reading is so much fun!"
- 27. Talk about your child's summer plans today.
- 28. Look for a TV program on science or history. Watch it with your child.
- 29. Ask your child to think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
- 30. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and let her know you love her.
- 31. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after his birth.

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