

Daily Learning Planner

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

Elementary Schools
PENNCREST School District



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May 2022

March 2022

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

- 1. Challenge your child to invent a business and write persuasive advertising for it.
- 2. Today is Read Across America Day. To celebrate, spend some extra time reading with your child.
- 3. Help your child use boxes and containers to create a 3-D map of your town.
- 4. March is National Nutrition Month. Include your child in planning and preparing a healthy meal.
- 5. Play lively music while your family does chores today.
- 6. Experiment with paper airplanes. With your child, fold paper to make different types. See which ones fly the best.
- 7. Learn where your town gets its water. Is conservation important in your area? Discuss with your child some ways you can help.
- 8. Get a deck of cards and try to build a house of cards with your child. Ask questions about school and life as you work.
- 9. Discuss a book your child likes. What does he like about it?
- 10. Encourage your child to write down the lyrics to favorite songs in a special notebook.
- 11. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 12. For five minutes, you and your child each start writing a story. Then swap papers and finish each other's story.
- 13. Try a new type of exercise or sport with your child.
- 14. Monitor the sites your child visits online. Talk about online safety.
- 15. Is your child fighting with a sibling or friend? Have them switch roles.
- 16. Ask your child questions about school that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "How did you solve that math problem?"
- 17. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after her birth.
- 18. Play screen-free games as a family tonight.
- 19. Have a "guess the number" contest. For example, "How many grapes are in the bunch?"
- 20. Create a word search for your child. Hide words in a grid and surround them with random letters.
- 21. Challenge family members on math facts. Who can say the multiplication tables fastest?
- 22. Have your child look through the newspaper and report on an interesting story at dinner tonight.
- 23. Ask your child what he thinks the world will be like in 10 years. How might school be different?
- 24. Write a note to your child to tell her you love her. Put it in a place where only she will find it.
- 25. Point to a country on a map or globe. With your child, figure out what time it is there.
- 26. Take an early morning walk with your child. Look for signs of spring.
- 27. Have your child make a portrait using pictures of eyes, noses, mouths, etc. cut out of magazines.
- 28. Trace your child's hand on paper. Think of ways to be a helping hand. Have him write his ideas on the drawing.
- 29. Together, invent a special holiday just for your family.
- 30. Let your child clean some dirty pennies with ketchup. Explain that they get shiny due to a chemical reaction.
- 31. Make a *rebus* together. Replace some words in a story with pictures.

April 2022

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

- 1. Watch the sun rise and set with your child. Talk about how the Earth's rotation makes the sun seem to rise in the east and set in the west.
- 2. April is National Poetry Month. Check out a few books of poetry from the library to read with your child.
- 3. Watch TV with your child and ask, "Was that show realistic?"
- 4. Play math "Jeopardy" as a family. Give a number. Who can come up with a problem for which it is the answer?
- 5. Teach your child the meaning of *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *bass* (fish or instrument).
- 6. Encourage your child to sort books by subject. She can use the library's system or invent her own.
- 7. Tell your child about the best and worst parts of your day. Ask about his.
- 8. Have a music-sharing evening. Share your favorite music with each other. Talk about how it makes you feel.
- 9. Does your child know your state capital? If not, help her look it up.
- 10. Help your child mark off inches on the side of a clear, straight-sided jar. Set it outside. See how many inches of rain you get in one week.
- 11. Brainstorm ways your family could help beautify your neighborhood.
- 12. Review fire safety today. What should your child do in case of a fire? Teach him an escape route from his bedroom.
- 13. Ask your child "what if" questions. "What if it never rained?" "What if everyone had the same name?"
- 14. Have your child draw an upside-down picture today.
- 15. Help your child review math facts by writing them on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 16. Look for ways to involve your child in your hobbies. For example, if you are a runner, take your child for a short jog.
- 17. Encourage your child to write a letter or email to a friend.
- 18. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.
- 19. Watch a different kind of TV program with your child, such as a documentary or a nature show. Talk about what you learned.
- 20. Look through catalogs or magazines with your child for pictures containing 90-degree angles. Create a collage of these angles.
- 21. Taste-test different types of apples with your child.
- 22. When your child is struggling, remind her how she has handled tough situations in the past.
- 23. Sit face to face with your child. Take turns mirroring exactly what the other person does.
- 24. Have your child write a poem or story from the point of view of a bird.
- 25. Review spelling or vocabulary words with your child. Challenge yourselves to use them in conversation as often as possible this week.
- 26. Use a toothpick dipped in lemon juice or milk to write a message to your child. To decipher, hold the paper up to a light bulb.
- 27. It's the birthday of Samuel Morse. Have family members send messages to each other in Morse Code.
- 28. Start telling a story to your child. Have him write an ending for it.
- 29. Practice division. Ask your child, "How many of your lifetimes has Grandma lived? Aunt Elizabeth?"
- 30. Take a "trip" to another country. Help your child go online to find out what life is like for school children there.

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May 2022

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

- 1. May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. Make an effort to get some exercise with your child every day this month!
- 2. Plan a picnic with your child.
- 3. Measure things a new way. How many fingers long is your child's bed?
- 4. When your child asks you a question, show her how to find the answer for herself.
- 5. Try to give your undivided attention when your child is talking to you.
- 6. Look for a community service project to do as a family.
- 7. Prepare a special breakfast today. As you eat, talk with your child about summer plans.
- 8. Play math baseball with your child. Each correct answer is a base hit.
- 9. Correct mistakes in a positive way: "You spelled everything right except these two words. I bet you can fix them!"
- 10. Give your child opportunities to make decisions. It's a skill that gets better with practice.
- 11. Pay your child a genuine and specific compliment.
- 12. Tell your child that you know he can succeed in school.
- 13. Record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 14. Encourage your child to imagine how others might be feeling in different situations.
- 15. Have a contest. Which family member can name the most parts of the body?
- 16. Let school lessons spark your imagination. Visit an educational website with your child.
- 17. On a map, help your child locate places where family members came from.
- 18. Discuss the importance of starting the day with a nutritious breakfast.
- 19. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 20. Attendance is still important! Recommit to having your child start school on time every day.
- 21. Plan an outdoor adventure day. Visit a zoo, park or playground.
- 22. Show your child how her shadow moves. Look at shadows at different times of the day. Do they change?
- 23. Walk to a local landmark with your child. Later, have him make a map of your route, including *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*.
- 24. Encourage your child to ask older family members about their memories of childhood.
- 25. Have each family member bring an interesting historical fact to dinner.
- 26. Talk to your child about cheating. What are reasons some people cheat? Emphasize that cheating is *always* wrong.
- 27. How many times can your child jump rope? Jump and count together.
- 28. Mix 1 cup cornstarch and ½ cup water in a bowl. Squish it and it becomes solid. Let it sit and it turns back into a liquid.
- 29. Take a walk with your child in a nearby park. Talk about the flowers and birds that you see.
- 30. Today is Memorial Day. Talk to your child about what this day means to you.
- 31. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher.

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