

PRIME TIME

Parent Newsletter of the
Title I and Intervention Programs
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West Blvd
Elementary
School

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas Families Can Use to Help
Children Do Well in School

Try a New Idea Every Day!

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1. Have a silly supper tonight. Grab a blanket and sit on the floor. Serve finger foods such as fruit, carrot sticks, cheese and popcorn.
2. April is Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month. Take time to talk about math with your child each day this month.
3. Correct mistakes in a positive way. "You got everything right except these two questions. I bet you can learn them, too!"
4. Have your child fill a container with water, then pour it into a differently shaped container. Does the quantity of water look different?
5. Help your child figure out the perimeter and area of a room in your home.
6. Listen to a piece of music that has no lyrics. Have your child write lyrics for the song.
7. Help your child interview people in various careers that seem interesting. What would a typical day be like?
8. Learn the sign language alphabet with your child. Use it to practice spelling words today.
9. Have your child think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
10. Ask, "What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?" Have your child describe it.
11. Point to a country on a globe or a map. Help your child figure out what time it is there.
12. Talk about *honesty* and why it is so important. Point to examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
13. Have everyone bring a joke to the dinner table. Laughter is the best dinner music!
14. Take an early morning walk with your child. Look for signs of spring.
15. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing you have done for someone in our family?"
16. Gather some pictures your child can cut up. Have your child cut out items with 90 degree angles and make a collage of them.
17. Help your child see the bright side of a difficult situation. "This line is long, but it gives us time to play a game while we wait."
18. Check on your child's grades. If necessary, help your student raise them before the year ends.
19. Have your child write math facts on the sidewalk with chalk.
20. Have 20 minutes of DEAR time today. This is a time when family members Drop Everything And Read.
21. Measure how far your child can jump. Can your student estimate how many jumps it would take to go around your house?
22. As a family, discuss steps you can take to conserve natural resources.
23. Teach your child about *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings, such as *bass* (fish and instrument).
24. Find a new way to say "I love you" to your child—for example, in sign language or in secret code.
25. Ask your child, "What do you think middle school will be like?"
26. Choose a recipe from another country or culture. Prepare it together.
27. Help your child measure something with a ruler. Count the inches.
28. Ask your child, "What do you think is the best part of being a parent?"
29. Together, find out which is the oldest building in your town and visit it.
30. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.

Research Disproves Common Myths About Student Learning

Research shows that while people often believe they understand what “effective learning” looks like, they’re frequently mistaken.

Here are five common myths about learning, along with the research-based facts:



- **Myth #1:** Everyone has a specific learning style. **Fact:** Kids learn in all kinds of ways. In one situation, they may do better hearing new material. But in another? Seeing examples could be key.
- **Myth #2:** You’re either born smart or you’re not. **Fact:** Intelligence and abilities can increase over time—especially when kids are given access to books and learning opportunities.
- **Myth #3:** Long study sessions are the best way to prepare for a quiz or test. **Fact:** Kids retain facts much better if they study it repeatedly over time. Studying a little each day is much more effective than trying to digest everything in one sitting.
- **Myth #4:** Reading material over and over is the best way to learn it. **Fact:** It’s more effective to practice recalling and restating key ideas.
- **Myth #5:** Right-brained students learn differently than left-brained ones. **Fact:** There’s no evidence that being left-brained (favoring logic and math) or right-brained (favoring art and emotions) has an impact on learning. Actually, there’s no proof that one side of the brain dominates at all.

SOURCE: U. Boser, *Learn Better: Mastering the Skills for Success in Life, Business, and School, Or, How to Become an Expert in Just About Anything*, Rodale Books.

Promote a ‘Can-Do’ Attitude to Strengthen Academic Success



School is filled with all sorts of challenges—and success depends on how students respond to those challenges. Help your child understand that people can get smarter by trying, persisting, and learning from mistakes.

Attitude determines how students think about problems. Suppose, for example, your child is having trouble understanding a math concept. Some children would throw up their hands and say, “I’m not good at math”—and quit trying. But other kids would take another view. “This is a challenge, and I love a challenge.”

Children in the second group believe that even if they don’t understand something now, they will be able to learn it in the future. They have a “can-do” attitude and are more likely to stick with problems—and solve them.

You can encourage this attitude by praising your child’s effort. “That was challenging, but you kept trying different things until you got it!”

SOURCE: C. Romero, “What We Know About Growth Mindset from Scientific Research,” Mindset Scholars Network.