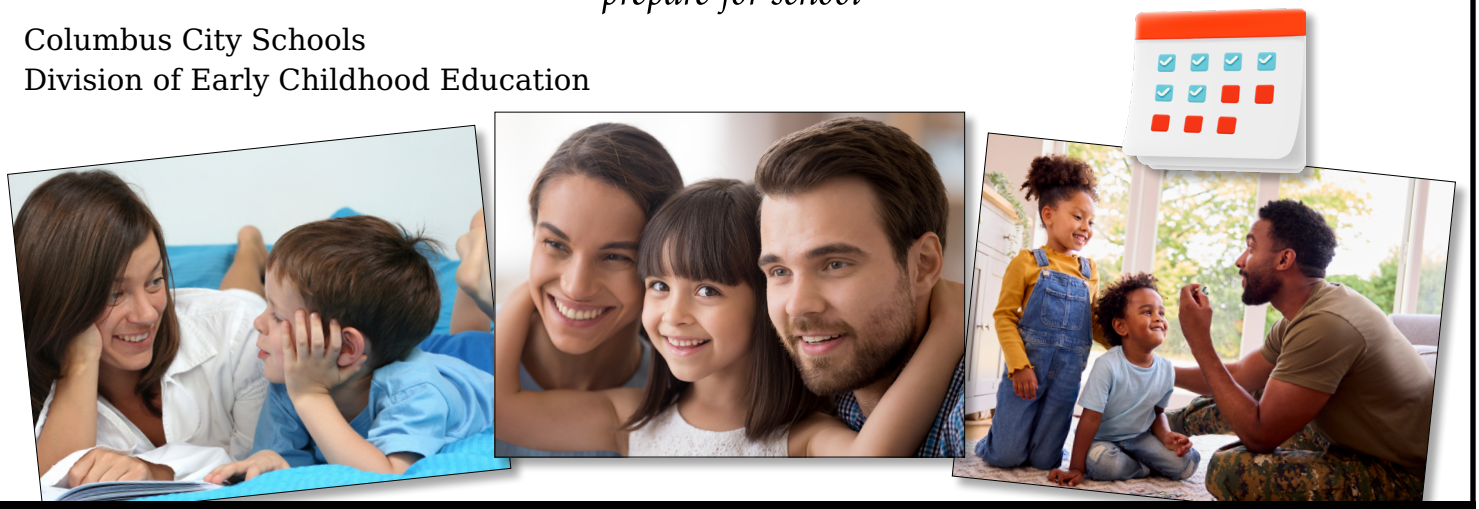
Early Childhood

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children prepare for school

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

March 2026

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

1. Visit a nearby park or running trail. Everyone run like the March wind!
2. Make a piece of art that stands up. Have your child draw a picture on paper. Roll the paper into a cylinder and tape the ends.
3. Choose several things with different scents, such as cinnamon, a flower and lotion. With eyes closed, can your child identify each scent?
4. With your child, make letters with your bodies. Can you spell your names?
5. Talk about things you are thankful for. List your child first!
6. Ask your child to arrange a collection of small objects into *equal* rows.
7. Go to the library and help your child check out books about spring.
8. Ask your child to supply sound effects when you read aloud. What does the train in the book sound like?
9. Turn a potted plant into a "letter tree." Hang new letters on the tree as your child learns them.
10. Eat dinner tonight by flashlight.
11. Think of special ways to send your child the message "I love you."
12. Have your child practice counting to five. If this is easy, have your preschooler count to 10 or 20.
13. Tell your child a story about when *you* were little.
14. Put together a kitchen band. How many kitchen objects can your child use to make music?
15. Declare today a Mixed-Up Meal Day. Eat dinner for breakfast and breakfast for dinner.
16. List four adjectives, such as *soft*, *small*, *heavy* and *round*. Can your child find items that match each of these descriptions?
17. With your child, count all the green vehicles you see today.
18. Create an art gallery. Make paper frames for your child's artwork. Rotate the work on display frequently.
19. Help your child make a card for a friend or relative.
20. Make your child laugh! Tell a joke, read a funny story or poem, sing a silly song or draw a cartoon.
21. Bake a cake together and allow your child to decorate it.
22. Get two rags and let your child help you dust.
23. Crush cereal in a bag. Write your child's name with glue on paper. Pour the cereal on it. When dry, let your preschooler feel each letter.
24. Make up new words to a song. You and your child might turn "If You're Happy and You Know It" into "If You're Silly and You Know It."
25. Look through a magazine or catalog. Ask your child to find different categories of things, such as blue things and things with wheels.
26. Do body arithmetic. Help your child figure out how much 10 fingers, 2 knees, 10 toes and 1 nose add up to.
27. Start a made-up story. "A dog went down the road and met a … ." Let your child finish the story.
28. Talk about something your child did that was responsible. Be specific, so your child will know what to do again the next time.
29. Open a fruit that has seeds inside. Explain to your child that fruit grows from seeds.
30. Combine two different shapes of uncooked pasta in a bowl. Get two containers, and ask your child to sort the pasta by shape.
31. Play a game of hide and seek with your child.

Copyright © 2026 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525