

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school*

Columbus City Schools
Division of Early Childhood Education



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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

1. Give your child an example of something people do to stay safe, such as wearing a seat belt. Can your preschooler think of other ways to be safe?
2. Look at a calendar together. What month is it? What is next month?
3. Help your child use washable ink to make fingerprints on paper. Explain that no two fingerprints are the same.
4. Place several pairs of socks in a pile and challenge your child to find the ones that match.
5. Show your child the difference between uppercase and lowercase letters.
6. Talk about the end of summer and beginning of fall. Discuss changes that happen. For example, leaves fall off the trees. What else?
7. Climb the stairs together. Count each step out loud as you climb.
8. Help your child see familiar things in a new way. A cardboard tube can become a bowling pin; cereal boxes can be houses or buildings.
9. Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher.
10. Talk about *more*, *less* and *equal* with your child. Ask, "Do you have more books or more stuffed animals?"
11. Turn your child's plate upside-down before serving food. Explain the meaning of upside-down. Then, turn the plate over and serve.
12. Go to the library. Ask your child to pick out a book for you to read together tonight.
13. Model polite table manners for your child. Say, "Please pass the vegetables" and "Thank you very much."
14. Show your child how to hold safety scissors and cut curved and straight lines in paper.
15. Act out the lyrics to "Mary Had a Little Lamb" with your child. One person be Mary and the other be the lamb. Then, switch roles.
16. Join your child for a few minutes of pretend play. Incorporate a school skill, such as counting or listening, into your play.
17. Print your child's name on paper. Let your preschooler glue decorations around it.
18. Make up a story with your child as the main character. Ask your child to retell the story to you.
19. Say a word, such as *cat*, and ask your preschooler to think of words that rhyme with it.
20. Talk about the difference between *night* and *day*. Have your child draw a night picture and a day picture.
21. Wrap masking tape sticky-side out around your child's fingers. Let your preschooler use the "sticky hand" to pick up small, light objects.
22. Help your child practice making opposite statements. Say, "The chair is *inside*." Your child says, "The chair is *outside*."
23. Look for the letter A with your child everywhere you go today.
24. Demonstrate how to bounce and catch a ball. Encourage your child to try doing it.
25. Help your child make a playhouse by draping a sheet over a table.
26. Tell a story. Ask your child to listen for one word, such as *dog*, and clap each time you say the word.
27. Do some exercises with your child.
28. Look through pictures in books, magazines or catalogs with your child to find things that move (planes, cars, trains).
29. Talk with your child about the differences between pets and wild animals.
30. Sing a favorite song with your preschooler today. Use your arms and hands to act out some of the words in the song.