Elementary School

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children do well in school

Ringgold School District

THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2026

September 2026

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

1. Make an appointment to spend some one-on-one time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar.
2. Find out about upcoming school events for families. Plan to attend as many as you can.
3. Ask your child, "What one thing makes you feel really excited?"
4. Choose a place by the front door to keep items that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each day.
5. Keep computers and other digital devices in common areas so you can monitor your child's activities.
6. Help your child plan ahead. Tonight, talk about the coming week. What does your child need to do to be ready?
7. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go?"
8. It's International Literacy Day. Talk with your child about why reading is important and schedule time for reading aloud.
9. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
10. Choose a place to display your child's best schoolwork. Change the display often.
11. Watch a funny video together. Then, have your child draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
12. Talk to your child about the importance of school attendance. Students should attend every day unless they are sick or there is an emergency.
13. Name different types of punctuation with your child. Then, have your elementary schooler find examples in a book or news article.
14. Create a special place to keep important papers and communications from school—a box or basket, or a folder on your computer.
15. Be sure you and your child know the school rules. Talk about one today.
16. Ask to hear about one thing your child learned in school today. Share one thing you learned today.
17. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
18. Find something small enough to fit in your child's pocket. Have your child write (or tell you) a story about it.
19. Take a walk together and look for signs of fall.
20. Teach your child positive ways to handle stress—exercise, get enough sleep, talk about problems.
21. Go outside. Show your child which way is *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*.
22. Today's news is history in the making. Watch the news together. Talk about current events at the dinner table.
23. "Adopt" a neighborhood tree. With your child, watch it throughout the year. Talk about how it looks, feels and even smells.
24. Look at a weather report with your child today. What are the highs and lows expected?
25. Make a jigsaw puzzle together. Glue a picture onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces and challenge your child to put it back together.
26. Apple tree planter Johnny Appleseed was born on this day in 1774. At the grocery store, have your child count the different types of apples you see.
27. Play Guess that Number with your child: How many grapes in a bunch?
28. At dinner, discuss the "best" and "worst" parts of everyone's day.
29. Discuss three things that you love about your child.
30. Talk with your child about the importance of doing one's best. Point out examples of people who are doing their best.

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

October 2026

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

1. When your child brings home graded schoolwork, talk about things your student did correctly before discussing errors.
2. Start a family savings jar. As a family, discuss what the goal will be and how much each person wants to donate.
3. Role-play a sticky situation with your child. What would your elementary schooler do if friends were teasing someone at school?
4. Plan a family talent show. Have everyone practice their acts this week.
5. Do a crossword or other word puzzle with your child.
6. Ask your child to tell you what *fairness* looks like. What things show fairness in action?
7. Help your child start a collection. Provide a place to keep it—a box, a shelf, a drawer.
8. Celebrate National Popcorn Poppin' Month. Pop some popcorn to enjoy together during family reading time.
9. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight. Take turns quizzing one another.
10. Help your child create a personal dictionary. In a notebook, your student can write down new words found while reading and their definitions.
11. Ask your child to predict how long tasks and activities will take today and then time them.
12. Celebrate National School Lunch Week. Talk with your child about nutritious food choices for lunch.
13. Look through a newspaper with your child. Which headlines interest your student? Read an article together and discuss it.
14. Create an art gallery. Display your child's artwork in frames. Rotate the art frequently.
15. Cut out four pictures from advertisements or magazines. Ask your child to tell you a story that involves something from each picture.
16. Together, make up a song featuring your child's name.
17. With your child, make a fall table decoration.
18. Have a "silent supper." During dessert, have everyone share what they were thinking about when it was quiet.
19. Take turns with your child coming up with words with both a *prefix* and a *suffix* (such as *re*place*ment*).
20. Using flash cards is an effective way to memorize facts. Encourage your child to take them along in the car and use travel time for review.
21. Have your child glue craft sticks together to make a frame for a favorite picture. Suggest using crayons or markers to decorate it.
22. Set aside some time to work on a hobby with your child.
23. At dinner, ask each family member to share the week's experiences.
24. Tell your child, "I love you" today and every day.
25. Put on music and spend 15 minutes drawing or writing with your child. Let the music be your inspiration.
26. What's the average age of members of your family? Ask your child to add up the ages, then divide by number of family members.
27. Challenge your child to build an animal out of five pipe cleaners.
28. Ask your child to write step-by-step directions for how to do something. Follow the directions exactly. Was anything missing?
29. Get some exercise with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy.
30. Read a book about your town or state with your child today.
31. Help your child learn how to count to 10 in at least three languages.

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

November 2026

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

1. Let your child see you reading for different reasons: for pleasure, for information, to learn something new.
2. Help your child set a reading goal for this month.
3. Ask your child to teach you about a concept in an assignment. Teaching reinforces learning.
4. In the car, say a number between one and 10. Who can spot a license plate with numbers that add up to the number you called out?
5. Is your child behaving well? Be sure to say how proud this makes you.
6. It's the birthday of James Naismith, inventor of basketball, who was born in 1861. Find a court and shoot some hoops with your child.
7. Teach your child to write down assignments, tests dates and school activities on your family calendar.
8. Bring a calculator with you when you shop. Have your child to keep a running tally of purchases.
9. This week, help your child keep track of time spent reading for pleasure each day and calculate the average.
10. Make a school project kit with your child. Include glue, tape, craft sticks, colored paper, etc. This can reduce frantic, last-minute shopping trips.
11. Start a kitchen band. Use spoons, pans and lids for instruments. March around the house together.
12. Take an online trip with your child to another continent. Watch travel videos and read about interesting places.
13. Make up new compound words for familiar things together. Perhaps your cat is a *purrcuddler*.
14. Today is the birthday of Claude Monet, a French Impressionist painter. Look at pictures of his art with your child, then paint your own.
15. At dinner, have everyone compliment each person at the table.
16. Help your child rehearse things to say if feeling pressured by a friend or classmate to cheat.
17. Have your child make a list of things in a category—such as colors—then put them into alphabetical order.
18. Plan a reading dinner. Have everyone bring a book to the table, and take turns reading aloud.
19. Play tic-tac-toe with your child.
20. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to someone who has been helpful or a positive influence.
21. Have all family members pitch in for a half-hour "blitz" of house cleaning. It teaches that everyone has a responsibility to help the family.
22. Teach your child to make a healthy snack. Enjoy it together.
23. Talk to your child about the proper ways to handle trash. Where should it go? What can be reused or recycled?
24. Let your child pick the book you will read together today.
25. Look for ways to volunteer as a family. Let your child help decide what to do.
26. Make a paper cornucopia with your child. Fill it with a list of all the things that make your family grateful.
27. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
28. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book about oceans.
29. Have your child read to you as you're cleaning up after a meal. Or, you read while your child cleans up!
30. Make your child laugh! Tell a joke, read a funny story or poem, sing a silly song or draw a cartoon.

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