

# Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children  
prepare for school.*

Neysa Callison Elementary



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

September • October • November 2010

## September 2010

- 1. Make an appointment to visit school and meet your child's teacher this month.
- 2. Does your child have a library card? Get one and use it.
- 3. Play "guess that number": How many grapes in the bunch? How many cookies in the package?
- 4. Take a "trip" to Europe, Africa or Asia on the Internet. Many libraries have computers with Internet access.
- 5. Set a regular time for homework this school year. Find the time that works best for your family.
- 6. It's Labor Day. Talk about the different ways people can earn a living.
- 7. Provide a regular place to display your child's best school work. Change the display often.
- 8. It's International Literacy Day. With your child, talk about why reading is important.
- 9. Ask your child to come up with words with both a suffix and a prefix ("replacing").
- 10. Plan a reading dinner. It's one time everyone can bring a book to the table.
- 11. Make sure your child has basic reference books when he studies—atlas, dictionary, thesaurus.
- 12. List 10 of your child's successes this week. List 10 of your own. Post the list where you can both see it.
- 13. Have a family dinner by candlelight. Have each person share the week's experiences.
- 14. Find the best time for your child to do homework. Some kids do best in the morning, others at night.
- 15. For safety, remember what your child is wearing each time she leaves the house.
- 16. With your child, make and enjoy a healthy snack.
- 17. Today is Citizenship Day. What does being a "good citizen" mean in your family? In school? Community?

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

- 18. Measure how far your child can jump. How many jumps to go around your house?
- 19. Help your child plan ahead. Tonight, talk about the coming week.
- 20. Make sure you and your child know school rules. Ask for a list of rules and post them on your refrigerator.
- 21. Watch a sports event on TV with your child. Talk with your child about what you see and hear.
- 22. Give your child a whistle to blow if he is in danger. Warn your child to *only* blow it when there is danger.
- 23. It's the Autumnal Equinox. Look up the word *equinox*.
- 24. Watch the news with your child. Locate one place mentioned on a world map.
- 25. A good breakfast helps kids learn. Start the day with a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
- 26. Johnny Appleseed was born in 1744. How many different types of apples can you and your child name?
- 27. Write a list of your child's favorite animals. Talk about what makes each animal special.
- 28. Kids need at least five servings of fruits and vegetables every day. Choose a new fruit to enjoy with your child.
- 29. Do you have a computer in your home? Make sure it's in a spot where you can monitor your child's activities.
- 30. Does your child know how many days each month has? Teach her. ("Thirty days has September ...")



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# October 2010

- 1. Talk about careers with your child. What would he like to do when he grows up?
- 2. Take a walk and look for signs of fall. See if your child can identify the trees you pass.
- 3. Have everyone write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read your lists aloud at dinner.
- 4. Teach your child how to protect himself by saying *no*, walking away from fights, or talking about dangerous situations.
- 5. It's Fire Prevention Week. Plan a safe escape in case of a fire at your house.
- 6. Choose a news story on an interesting subject. Cut off the headline. Challenge your child to write her own headline.
- 7. Plan an imaginary vacation with your child.
- 8. Does your child have homework to do over the weekend? Make sure your child schedules time to complete it.
- 9. It's Hunger Awareness Month. Plan something your family can do to reduce hunger in your town or the world.
- 10. Today's news is history in the making. Watch the news together. Talk about current events at the dinner table.
- 11. Ask your child about the best present he ever received. What made it special?
- 12. Every time you talk with your child on the telephone, end your conversation with the words "I love you."
- 13. Start a project with your child. Make plans to work on it regularly together.
- 14. Celebrate School Lunch Week. Talk with your child about nutritious food choices for lunch.
- 15. Together, learn to say "hello" in two other languages.



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- 16. Make today dictionary day. Talk with your child about new words that should be in the dictionary.
- 17. Give your child a calendar. Suggest she fill it with notes about homework, tests and school activities.
- 18. Visit the library. Check out a mystery book.
- 19. Look through the newspaper with your child. What headlines interest him? Read an article together and discuss it.
- 20. Read a textbook assignment with your child. Then ask your child to tell you about it in her own words.
- 21. Plan an exercise "date" with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy, such as walking or tossing a ball.
- 22. Celebrate National Popcorn Poppin' Month. Pop some popcorn and read a mystery book with your child.
- 23. Make a big pot of soup. Let your child help with measuring.
- 24. Give your child a hug today.
- 25. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 26. Visit the library and check out a book of jokes. Have your child pick a favorite to share with the family.
- 27. Read a book with your child about someone from an ethnic group different from your own.
- 28. Talk about the *best* and *worst* of your day. Give everyone a chance to share.
- 29. Time different activities you do in a day.
- 30. Have everyone pitch in for a half-hour "blitz" of house cleaning. It teaches children responsibility.
- 31. Choose an object, such as a paper clip. Ask your child to figure out different ways to use it.

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# November 2010

- 1. Have your child write a letter to a lawmaker about an issue important to him.
- 2. Start a family library. Let your child have her own shelf or bookcase for her books.
- 3. At the dinner table, put a price on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the cost of the meal.
- 4. Make a paper chain with one ring for each day left until winter break. Every day remove a ring.
- 5. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Pick a period of time and re-enact the event together.
- 6. It's the birthday of James Naismith, inventor of basketball. Find a court and shoot some hoops with your child.
- 7. Ask your child to think of one animal that starts with each letter of the alphabet (skip the letter X).
- 8. At the library, use reference books or the Internet to look up animals that live in your neighborhood.
- 9. When you are at the store today, ask your child to figure out how much change you should get from a purchase.
- 10. Squash is a native American vegetable. When you're in the supermarket, choose a new type of squash to try.
- 11. Hug your child just because you love him.
- 12. Ask your child to imagine life 150 years ago. How about 150 years in the future?
- 13. Help your child organize his books. Arrange them by subject, title or author.
- 14. Claude Monet, a French artist, was born on this day in 1840. Paint a picture with your child.
- 15. Take a walk with your child.
- 16. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word; rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 17. It's Geography Awareness Week. Quiz each other on state, province and world capitals at dinner tonight.

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- 18. Talk with your child about honesty and why it is important. Look for examples of honest people.
- 19. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 20. Create an art gallery. Display your child's artwork in a frame. Rotate paintings frequently.
- 21. Tell your child you love him.
- 22. Encourage your child to sort her books by subject. She can use the library's system or invent her own.
- 23. Hold a family meeting. Make some goals as a family.
- 24. What's the average age of members of your family? (Add up ages, divide by number of family members.)
- 25. Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.
- 26. Play a game of charades with your child. Use hand gestures and motions to describe your word.
- 27. Clean out closets with your child. Donate extras to charity—or have a family yard sale.
- 28. Watch a TV show with your child. Ask questions such as, "Why do you think that character did that?"
- 29. If your child is just learning to read, check out "read-along" audio books from the library.
- 30. Write an encouraging note and tuck it in your child's jacket pocket or school book.



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