

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help children do better in school.

Neysa Callison Elementary



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August • 2009

June 2009

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

- 1. Fly a kite with your child today.
- 2. Sit outside and look at clouds with your child. What do their shapes remind you of?
- 3. Have your child place a piece of paper on a tree trunk and rub with a crayon. This shows the tree's "fingerprints."
- 4. Does your child have a summer reading list? Post it in a special place. Check off books he has read.
- 5. Allow your child to stay up late to read tonight.
- 6. Go on a walk with your child.
- 7. Plan a no-TV night.
- 8. Teach your child a helpful skill, such as sewing on a button.
- 9. Have your child decorate a box for keepsakes this summer. In August, use them to make a scrapbook.
- 10. Together, learn to say "hello" in two other languages.
- 11. Help your child start a family newsletter.
- 12. See how many words your child can use to describe the sky.
- 13. Have a "power out" night. Use flashlights. Avoid using electronics, such as the TV and computer.
- 14. Sponsor a summer-long contest. Who in your family can read the most books?
- 15. Plant an herb garden in pots on your window sill. Let your child taste the leaves and describe the flavors.
- 16. Have your child pretend she's a character from a book. Ask questions until you figure out who she is.
- 17. Let your child gather wildflowers. Iron them between sheets of wax paper. Hang where the light will shine through.
- 18. Watch a TV show with your child. Keep track of the time spent on commercials versus the program.
- 19. Have your child write a list of things you both hope to do this summer.
- 20. Visit an art museum with your child and talk about the paintings.
- 21. Talk about ways your child can handle stress.
- 22. Sit face to face with your child. Have him begin moving. Pretend to be a mirror, doing exactly what he does.
- 23. Check out a book about trees at the library. Go on a walk together and see how many different kinds you can identify.
- 24. Make a list of 10 things your child learned in school this year. Post it on the refrigerator.
- 25. Taste-test different types of apples with your child.
- 26. Measure things in a funny way. How many fingers long is your child's desk?
- 27. Show your child a sunrise and a sunset. Talk about how the sun always rises in the east and sets in the west.
- 28. Sit in the grass with your child. How many creatures can you find that make their homes in the ground?
- 29. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety today.
- 30. Start a family collection of reading reviews. After someone reads a book, they write a review in a special notebook.



Helping Children Learn®
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Elementary Edition

July 2009

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

- 1. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up at the library.
- 2. Open an atlas and point to a country. With your child, figure out what time it is there.
- 3. Plan an outdoor adventure day. Visit a zoo, park or playground.
- 4. Take a walk with your child. Later, have her make a map of your route.
- 5. Have your child listen to you read an article. Then have him summarize the main points.
- 6. Talk about the "best" and "worst" of your day. Everyone take a turn.
- 7. Plan a reading dinner. Allow everyone to bring a book to the table. Spend some time reading, then share your thoughts.
- 8. Visit the library and check out a book about birds.
- 9. See who can find the tiniest thing on a walk today.
- 10. Ask your child to listen for a certain word as you read and have her say it aloud when she hears it.
- 11. Ask your child to draw a picture about his day.
- 12. Ask your child to help you plan an activity.
- 13. Help your child set a goal for this week.
- 14. Play an age-appropriate board game with your child.
- 15. Talk to your child about the difference between "telling" and "tattling."
- 16. Use old coffee cans to set up a golf course in your yard. Sticks can be used as golf clubs.
- 17. At dinner, ask everyone to share one thing that made them happy today.



- 18. Test your child's observation skills. Can she describe someone that just passed her on the street?
- 19. Talk with your child about what it means to be free.
- 20. Take your child to your local fire station for a tour.
- 21. Ask your child to write a poem about his favorite thing to do.
- 22. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 23. Tell your child a "fun fact" about something she loves.
- 24. Ask your child to notice things that come from plants.
- 25. Give your child some objects to organize.
- 26. Ask your child to sound out the words on your grocery list.
- 27. Pick a category, such as *animals*. Then pick a letter, such as *b*. How many items from that category begin with that letter?
- 28. Plan a picnic with your child.
- 29. Watch the news with your child. Choose a story and compare it with a newspaper article on the same subject.
- 30. Count the days until a special event. Link that number of paper strips to make a chain. Remove one link each day.
- 31. Help your child find a website that demonstrates how to make things. Provide supplies and time to work.

Helping Children Learn[®]
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
Elementary Edition

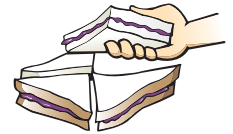
Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute[®], a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*[®] newsletter • 1-800-756-5525

August 2009

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

- 1. At dinner tonight, ask everyone how they used math today.
- 2. Let your child read you the directions for a recipe.
- 3. Mix up pairs of socks and let your child match them up.
- 4. Ask your child what she enjoyed most this summer.
- 5. Talk to your child about how name-calling hurts everyone.
- 6. Tell your child you love him.
- 7. Let your child stay up late to read in bed tonight.
- 8. Plan a "no-TV" day.
- 9. Have your child research facts about our flag.
- 10. Talk about tricky pairs of letters. Help your child learn to distinguish between *w* and *m*, *n* and *u*, *b* and *d*, *i* and *l*.
- 11. Research another culture and plan an evening to celebrate it.
- 12. See how many ways your child can write a number. For example, 4 can be written 1+3, 2+2, or 6-2.
- 13. With your child, walk as fast as you can around your block. Time yourselves. Try to improve your time next week.
- 14. Start a sentence-a-day story. In a special notebook, your child writes a story one sentence at a time.
- 15. Have a garage sale and donate the proceeds to a charity.
- 16. Make graphs of the types of pets in your neighborhood.
- 17. Have your child place a leaf (vein side up) on newspaper. Cover it with thin paper and have her rub with a crayon.
- 18. Practice math skills with "real-life" problems. How many weeks of allowance would your child need to buy a bike?
- 19. Which way is the wind blowing? Let your child hang a piece of yarn on a tree branch to find out.
- 20. Let your child put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. Watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.

- 21. Encourage writing by helping your child make his own stationery on a computer.
- 22. Collect seeds that are different sizes and colors. Let your child use glue and paper to arrange the seeds in a design.
- 23. Have your child write directions for making her favorite sandwich. Then follow them together.
- 24. Talk with your child about a choice one of you needs to make. Discuss all the options and possible consequences.
- 25. Have a silent conversation with your child. Draw whatever you want to say.
- 26. Use a kitchen timer while your child completes a task. See if he can "beat the clock."
- 27. Plan an imaginary vacation with your child.
- 28. Check out library books with "read along" CDs.
- 29. Ask your child to draw a picture of her favorite flower.
- 30. Ask your child to fill a tall, thin cup with water. Pour it into a short, broad cup. Does the amount look different?
- 31. Teach your child to wash his hands often—before every meal, after sneezing and after playing outside.



Helping Children Learn[®]
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
Elementary Edition

Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute[®], a division of NIS, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Helping Children Learn*[®] newsletter • 1-800-756-5525