

Daily Learning Planner

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



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. Paint a picture with your child using only black and white paint.
- 2. Look online or in the newspaper for a list of seasonal events. Plan to attend one as a family this month.
- 3. Let your child invite a friend to play. Beforehand, discuss how to be polite.
- 4. Talk with your child about what happened today. Together, draw a picture describing the day.
- 5. Read a book with your child about helping others. Talk about the importance of community service.
- 6. Make sure your child knows your family's street address. Look at the building number together.
- 7. Find a broken toy. See if you and your child can fix it.
- 8. When your preschooler has a problem, offer two appropriate solutions and let your child decide which one to choose.
- 9. Visit a pet store and look at the fish. Discuss their sizes and colors.
- 10. Encourage independence. Make rules your child can follow for getting a snack or choosing activities.
- 11. Help your child practice sharing.
- 12. Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- 13. Read a fairy tale with your child. Talk about favorite parts of the story.
- 14. Play a game of Follow the Leader. Take turns leading and following with your child.
- 15. Measure and weigh your child. Explain about inches and pounds.
- 16. Spend 30 minutes reading together today. Let your child pick the books you will read.
- 17. If you're cooking with spices, let your child smell each one. Which smells the best?
- 18. Have a counting day. Count stairs as you climb them, cars as they pass and stars as you spot them.
- 19. Make a noisemaker with your child. Put dried beans in a plastic container with a lid. Shake it to music. Feel the rhythm.
- 20. If your holiday plans involve travel, pack a goody bag full of snacks, books and games to keep your child entertained.
- 21. Make a snowman together out of three marshmallows.
- 22. Have your child draw a picture of something that people do or see in December.
- 23. Hunt for the first letter of your child's name together today. Look on signs, in books and in newspaper headlines.
- 24. Tell a story about when your child was a baby.
- 25. Listen to seasonal music you like and sing along with your child.
- 26. Have your child talk to older relatives about their childhood days.
- 27. Write some instructions on pieces of paper, such as "Hop on one foot." Draw them out of a hat and follow them for a fun activity.
- 28. Put five items of one kind and six items of another kind on a table. Ask your child, "Which group has more?"
- 29. Help your child make an indoor fort with sofa pillows or furniture draped with a sheet.
- 30. Visit the library to check out some new books to read with your child. Enjoy them together.
- 31. Give your child an empty paper towel roll as a megaphone. Shout out, "Happy New Year!"