

Daily Learning Planner

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

**Catholic School Office
Archdiocese of Cincinnati**



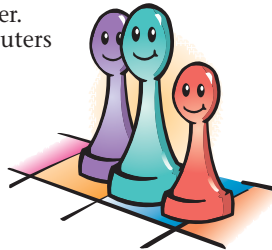
THE
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March • April • May • 2008

March 2008

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

- 1. Bake cookies with your child, but double the recipe. Help him figure out how much of each ingredient you will need.
- 2. Look for an age-appropriate movie about another country at the video store. Watch it with your child.
- 3. Play music while your family does chores today.
- 4. Hide an object and give your child clues to help her find it.
- 5. Get to know your town. Look in the newspaper for a list of things to do. Which ones appeal to your child?
- 6. Ask your child to rewrite a headline in the newspaper.
- 7. Make a *rebus* with your child—a story that replaces some words with pictures.
- 8. Practice using the Internet together. Your local library may have computers available.
- 9. Discuss a book your child likes.
- 10. Talk about ways your child can handle stress.
- 11. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 12. Tell your child a “fun fact” about something he loves.
- 13. Try a new sport with your child.
- 14. Make up silly words and definitions with your child.
- 15. Set aside a half hour for writing with your child.
- 16. Play an age-appropriate board game with your child.
- 17. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after her birth.
- 18. Put colored blocks in a certain order, such as red, red, green, red, red, green. Have your child continue the pattern.



- 19. Have a “guess the number” contest. For example, “How many cookies are in the box?”
- 20. Ask your child to keep a notebook handy when watching TV. Have him write down unfamiliar words he hears.
- 21. Help your child learn about which things sink and which float. Try a wooden spoon, a metal spoon and a rock.
- 22. Give your child some objects to organize.
- 23. Sit face to face with your child. Have her begin moving. Pretend to be a mirror, doing exactly what she does.
- 24. Find the positive side of a difficult situation. For example, “This line is long. Lets play a game while we wait.”
- 25. Next time your kids argue, have them switch roles.
- 26. Watch the news with your child. Choose a story and compare it with a newspaper article on the same subject.
- 27. Have your child make a collage of features taken from pictures of people.
- 28. Watch a TV show with your child. Keep track of the time spent on commercials versus the program.
- 29. Have family members take turns being artists and models. The models pose while the artists draw them.
- 30. Call your local television station and see if you can arrange a tour for you and your child.
- 31. Plan a meal with your child. How many food groups can you include? Let your child help you prepare the meal.

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

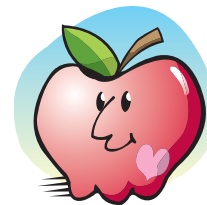
Elementary Edition

April 2008

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- 1. Show your child a sunrise and a sunset. Talk about how the sun always rises in the east and sets in the west.
- 2. Find a world map at the library. Use your finger to trace where your family came from.
- 3. Teach your child the meaning of *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.
- 4. Use the letters in your child's name to start descriptions of him. "S is for smart. A is for athletic. M is for mighty."
- 5. Watch TV with your child and ask, "Was that show realistic?"
- 6. Shop for salad materials at the grocery store. Pick one unfamiliar vegetable. At home, prepare the salad together.
- 7. Ask your child to give you a "six o'clock report" about his day. He should pretend he's a news anchor.
- 8. Ask your child to find interesting pictures from magazines and glue them on cardboard. Cut them into puzzle shapes.
- 9. Pick a category, such as animals. Then pick a letter, such as b. How many items from that category begin with that letter?
- 10. Let your child pick what to wear and where to study today.
- 11. Make a recording of math facts with your child.
- 12. Ask your child to read to you while you make dinner.
- 13. Think of something you don't know and research it with your child at the library.
- 14. Ask your child "what if" questions. "What if it never rained?"
- 15. Help your child review math facts by writing on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 16. Measure things in a funny way. How many fingers long is your child's desk?

- 17. Encourage your child to write a letter to a friend.
- 18. Make an "emergency reading kit" for the car.
- 19. Watch a new kind of TV program with your child, such as a sport's event or a nature show. Talk about what you learned.
- 20. Practice making decisions as a family.
- 21. Taste-test different types of apples with your child.
- 22. Open an atlas and point to a country. With your child, figure out what time it is there.
- 23. Ask your child what she thinks the world will be like in 10 years.
- 24. Be creative in the kitchen. Come up with unique pizza toppings with your child.
- 25. Ask your child to design a cover for a book.
- 26. Open a savings account for your child.
- 27. Take a "trip" to the Caribbean. Use books or a computer for research. What is life like for school children there?
- 28. Take a walk and look for signs of spring. If you didn't know the season, how could you tell by looking at nature?
- 29. Go on a map search through the newspaper. How many maps can your child find?
- 30. Check out a book about trees at the library. Go on a walk together and see how many different kinds you can identify.



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Elementary Edition

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May 2008

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

- 1. Plan a picnic with your child.
- 2. Check out a book about *origami*—the Japanese art of paper folding. Together, try to make some interesting shapes.
- 3. Ask your child to tell you about his favorite summer vacation activity.
- 4. Have your child name a food she loves. Does she know where it comes from?
- 5. Plan an outdoor adventure day. Visit a zoo, park or playground.
- 6. Fly a kite with your child today.
- 7. Cook or go out for a special breakfast today and talk about summer plans.
- 8. Read a favorite fairy tale to your child.
- 9. Have a "no TV" evening.
- 10. Take a walk with your child through your neighborhood and look for shapes.
- 11. Pay your child a compliment.
- 12. How many times can your child jump rope? Hold a contest.
- 13. Play math baseball. Each correct answer is a base hit.
- 14. See who in your family can name the most relatives.
- 15. Which family member can name the most parts of the body?
- 16. Ask your child to look for examples of tolerance and intolerance in the newspaper or on TV today.
- 17. Have each family member look through the newspaper and pick an item of interest. Share them at dinner.
- 18. Draw a picture of a body on a sheet of paper. Have your child research and create a map of the inside of the body.



- 19. Challenge everyone in the family to use the words "please," "thank you," and "excuse me" today.
- 20. Pretend you are in an opera. Sing everything you say to each other today.
- 21. Have your child write a thank-you letter to her teacher.
- 22. Use old coffee cans to set up a golf course in your yard. Sticks can be used as golf clubs.
- 23. Take a walk with your child. Later, have him make a map of your route.
- 24. Sit outside and look at clouds with your child. What do their shapes remind you of?
- 25. Have each family member bring an interesting fact to dinner.
- 26. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 27. Create a special holiday just for your family.
- 28. Together, use the television listings to plan your child's viewing this week. Limit how much she watches.
- 29. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 30. Sit in the grass with your child. How many creatures can you find that make their homes in the ground?
- 31. Check out a book about constellations at the library. See how many you and your child can find outside tonight.

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