

Daily Learning Planner

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

Catholic School Office
Archdiocese of Cincinnati



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

March • April • May • 2009

March 2009

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

- 1. Challenge your child to start a neighborhood newsletter.
- 2. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety today.
- 3. Have your child watch changes in plant and animal life in your neighborhood. Keep notes in a journal.
- 4. Hold a family meeting. Make some goals as a family.
- 5. Try a new kind of transportation with your child, such as a bus, subway or train.
- 6. Watch TV with your child tonight. Every time a commercial comes on, move until it's over. Jump up and down, run in place, do sit-ups.
- 7. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats, shoes and old clothes.
- 8. Start a family library. Let your child choose a shelf for favorite books.
- 9. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 10. Ask your child to name words that are similar in meaning to another word. *Cold* means the same as *chilly*, *cool* and *icy*.
- 11. Write a nice note and tuck it into your child's backpack.
- 12. Ask your child to go through grocery store coupons and sale fliers. Take your notes on bargains to the grocery store.
- 13. Test your child's knowledge on some facts, such as who is the president of the United States.
- 14. Talk about ways your child can handle stress.
- 15. Ask your child to figure out which way the wind is blowing by using a finger or looking at the trees.



- 16. Challenge everyone in your family to use the words *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me* today.
- 17. Open a savings account for your child.
- 18. Have your child read to you while you're in the car today.
- 19. Plan a meal with your child. How many food groups can you include? Let your child help you prepare the meal.
- 20. Visit the library with your child.
- 21. Ask your child what he would do with five dollars.
- 22. Suggest that your child write to a favorite author.
- 23. Give your child some objects to organize.
- 24. Ask your child to name 10 items that can be found in a dentist's office.
- 25. Play Go Fish with your child.
- 26. Fly a kite with your child today.
- 27. Ask your child to use a "radio announcer voice" when reading aloud to you.
- 28. Talk about the Golden Rule with your child. "Do unto others ..."
- 29. Ask your child to draw a self-portrait.
- 30. Have your child list things that will break if dropped.
- 31. Choose a "person of the week." Read more about this person with your child.

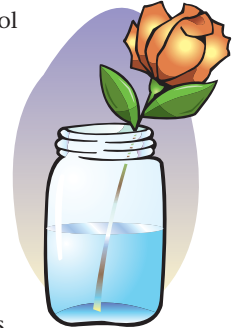
Helping Children Learn®
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
Elementary Edition

April 2009

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

- 1. Ask your child to write a poem about her favorite activity.
- 2. Watch television with your child and try to find people who are laughing.
- 3. Talk about books you loved when you were your child's age.
- 4. Ask your child to list five words that describe him. Are you surprised by what he listed?
- 5. Look through a photo album with your child. Talk about the pictures.
- 6. Ask your child to write a story about her best friends and what they mean to her.
- 7. Go on a map search through the newspaper. How many maps can your child find?
- 8. Drop a bit of thin white paint onto the center of a piece of black construction paper. Give your child a straw to blow the paint around to make a spider web.
- 9. Give your child a measuring tape. Ask him to measure dimensions of objects in your house.
- 10. Review emergency contacts with your child. Does she know the phone numbers to call?
- 11. If your child could be a famous person, who would he be?
- 12. Give your child a couple of markers and a paper towel. The absorbency of the paper towel will make the colors blur as she marks on it.
- 13. Have your child send a letter to a relative.
- 14. Help your child make a list of items, like vegetables. Ask him to put the items in alphabetical order.
- 15. Take your child to a local fire station for a tour.
- 16. Let your child read you the directions for a recipe.
- 17. Ask your child to make a list of items your family can recycle.

- 18. See who can find the tiniest thing on a walk today.
- 19. Learn how to say "I love you" in three different languages.
- 20. Read a story aloud to your child.
- 21. Do a crossword puzzle with your child today.
- 22. Review simple first-aid skills with your child today.
- 23. Create an art gallery with your child. Frame her artwork.
- 24. Ask your child to show you his school website.
- 25. Discuss a book your child likes.
- 26. Talk to your child about the difference between "telling" and "tattling."
- 27. Ask your child to listen for a certain word as you read and have her say it aloud when he hears it.
- 28. Take a compass on a walk with your child. Write down each direction you take.
- 29. Show your child a picture of Monet's artwork. Find some blooming flowers, and see if your child can imitate his style.
- 30. Talk with your child about school-bus safety.



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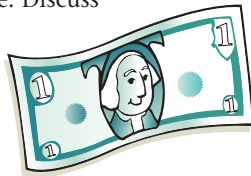
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May 2009

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

- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Plan a trip to a nearby museum.
- 3. Role-play a sticky situation with your child. What would he do if his friend was teasing someone at school?
- 4. Change chairs at mealtime. Pretend to be the person who usually sits in that chair.
- 5. Do a crossword puzzle with your child.
- 6. Challenge your child to fold a piece of paper into a usable drinking cup.
- 7. Start giving your child an allowance. Discuss what she can use it for, such as buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 8. Let your child stay up later to read.
- 9. Give your child some string and a button. See if he can thread the string through the button holes and make the button spin.
- 10. Let your child scrape crayon pieces onto a piece of paper. Cover with waxed paper and another sheet of paper. Then you (not your child) use a warm iron to melt the crayon.
- 11. Time different things you and your child do in a day.
- 12. Ask your child, "What do you most enjoy doing with our family?"
- 13. Look through the newspaper with your child. What headlines interest her? Read an article together and discuss it.
- 14. Make a big pot of soup. Let your child help with adding and measuring ingredients.
- 15. Review math facts at the dinner table tonight.
- 16. Together, learn to say "hello" in two other languages.



- 17. Make up a song featuring your child's name.
- 18. Ask your child, "Other than recess and lunch, what was your favorite part of school today?"
- 19. Tell your child that you love him.
- 20. Help your child create a joke collection. Fill a notebook with jokes you hear. Cut jokes out of magazines or newspapers.
- 21. With your child, glue craft sticks together to make a frame. Your child can decorate it with buttons and markers.
- 22. Keep a large basket as home base for library books.
- 23. Take a walk and collect pretty leaves. Put them between clear self-stick paper to make placemats.
- 24. Plan a no-TV night. Play games or read instead.
- 25. Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- 26. Glue a picture of your child to a piece of paper. Have her draw things that represent what is special about her.
- 27. Give your child five pipe cleaners and challenge him to create an animal.
- 28. Teach your child a helpful skill, such as sewing on a button.
- 29. Plan an exercise "date" with your child. Pick an activity you both enjoy, such as walking or tossing a ball.
- 30. Take your child out for a one-on-one breakfast.
- 31. Make up a story with your child.

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