

Daily Learning Planner

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

Catholic School Office
Archdiocese of Cincinnati



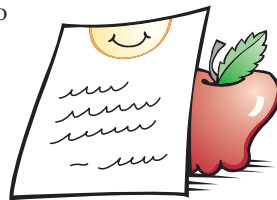
THE
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March • April • May • 2010

March 2010

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

- 1. Write a nice note and tuck it into your child's backpack.
- 2. Open a savings account for your child.
- 3. Test your child's knowledge on some facts, such as the name of the president of the United States.
- 4. Talk about ways your child can handle stress.
- 5. Record a conversation with your child. Listen to it together and talk about how your voices sound.
- 6. Challenge everyone in the family to use the words *please*, *thank you* and *excuse me* today.
- 7. Ask your child to go through grocery store coupons and sale flyers. Take your notes on bargains to the grocery store.
- 8. Have your child read to you while you're in the car today.
- 9. Plan a meal with your child. How many food groups can you include? Let your child help you prepare the meal.
- 10. Visit the library with your child.
- 11. Tape bubble wrap to the table and have your child paint on it. Press paper on it to get an interesting print.
- 12. Suggest that your child write to his favorite author.
- 13. Fly a kite with your child today.
- 14. Ask your child to list ideas for a new flavor of ice cream.
- 15. Play "Go Fish" with your child.
- 16. Give your child some objects to organize.
- 17. Ask your child to use a "radio announcer voice" as she reads aloud to you.
- 18. Talk about the Golden Rule with your child. "Do unto others ..."



- 19. Ask your child to draw a picture of himself.
- 20. Have your child list things that will break if dropped.
- 21. Choose a "person of the week." Read more about this person with your child.
- 22. Challenge your child to start a neighborhood newsletter.
- 23. Does your child ride a bike? Review the rules of bicycle safety today.
- 24. Have your child watch changes in plant and animal life in your neighborhood. Keep notes in a journal.
- 25. Hold a family meeting. Make some goals as a family.
- 26. Try a new kind of transportation with your child, such as a bus, subway or train.
- 27. Watch TV with your child tonight. When a commercial comes on, move continuously. Jump up and down, run in place, do sit-ups.
- 28. Make a costume box for your child. Fill it with hats, shoes and old clothes.
- 29. Start a family library. Let your child choose her own shelf for books.
- 30. Ask your child, "What are you thinking right now?"
- 31. Ask your child to name words that are similar in meaning to another word. *Cold* means the same as *chilly*, *cool* and *icy*.

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

April 2010

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- 1. Ask your child, “What do you think middle school and high school will be like?”
- 2. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 3. Turn on some music that has no words. Give your child a crayon and paper and ask her to draw the music.
- 4. Shop for salad ingredients at the grocery store. Pick one unfamiliar vegetable. At home, prepare the salad together.
- 5. Teach your child the meaning of *homographs*—words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.
- 6. Challenge your child to start his own club.
- 7. Share family history with your child. Look through pictures from before and after her birth.
- 8. Watch a TV show with your child. Keep track of the time spent on commercials versus the program.
- 9. Ask your child to think of words that rhyme with *rain*.
- 10. Draw an outline of a body on a sheet of paper. Have your child research and create a map of the inside of the body.
- 11. Open an atlas and point to a country. With your child, figure out what the time is there.
- 12. Talk to your child about how recycling paper is one way to help save natural resources.
- 13. Use a kitchen timer while your child completes a task. See if he can “beat the clock.”
- 14. Help your child review math facts by writing on the sidewalk with chalk.
- 15. Challenge your child to reorganize your food pantry.
- 16. Ask your child to rewrite a headline in the newspaper.
- 17. Find the positive side of a difficult situation. For example, “This line is long. Let’s play a game while we wait.”
- 18. Ask your child, “Would you like to go to college someday?”

- 19. Ask your child to give you a “six o’clock report” about her day. She should pretend she’s a news anchor.
- 20. Talk about outer space with your child.
- 21. Measure how far your child can jump. How many jumps to go around your house?
- 22. Dedicate a day to helping the environment.
- 23. Ask your child, “What is the nicest thing you have done for someone in our family?”
- 24. Help your child find a website that demonstrates how to make things. Provide supplies and time to work.
- 25. Take an animal walk with your child. Look for signs that animals have been there.
- 26. Have your child write his name in a vertical column. He can use each letter to begin a line of a poem.
- 27. Go outside with your child and look up at the clouds. Look for pictures in the clouds.
- 28. Ask your child to describe the weather.
- 29. Make up a secret code with your child. Use the code to send messages to each other.
- 30. Allow your child to stay up late to read tonight.



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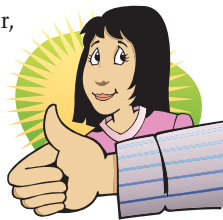
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May 2010

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- 1. Use old coffee cans to set up a golf course in your yard. Sticks can be used as golf clubs.
- 2. Ask your child, “What do you think is the best part about being a parent?”
- 3. Check out a book about *origami*—the Japanese art of paper folding. Together, try to make some interesting shapes.
- 4. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
- 5. Ask your child to look for examples of tolerance and intolerance in the newspaper or on the news today.
- 6. Take a magnifying glass outside. Let your child look at insects through it.
- 7. Ask your child to design a cover for a book.
- 8. Get to know your town. Look in the newspaper for a list of things to do. Which ones appeal to your child?
- 9. Make raisins dance. Add a few to a glass of clear soda. They will rise as bubbles collect and fall after bubbles pop at the surface.
- 10. Play math baseball. Each correct answer is a base hit.
- 11. Challenge your child to write an advertisement for a product he uses.
- 12. Ask your child, “What is the nicest thing a teacher ever said or did for you?”
- 13. Play music while your family does chores today.
- 14. Take a walk with your child.
- 15. Plan a picnic with your child.
- 16. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse. Help her practice making change.
- 17. Ask your child to invent something to make life easier.



- 18. Ask your child, “What is the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you?”
- 19. Have your child hold his nose while he eats. Does it affect the taste of the food?
- 20. Ask your child, “How do you decide who you want to be friends with?”
- 21. Give your child a big hug today.
- 22. Cook or go out for a special breakfast today and talk about summer plans.
- 23. Plant a garden with your child.
- 24. Suggest that your child write to her favorite author.
- 25. Check out a library book about sign language. Teach yourselves how to sign the alphabet.
- 26. Ask your child what he is thankful for today.
- 27. Watch a TV show with your child. Ask questions such as, “Why do you think that character did that?”
- 28. With your child, go outside tonight and look at the stars through a cardboard tube.
- 29. Take a walk with your child. Later, have her make a map of your route.
- 30. Help your child experiment with photosynthesis. Block light from a plant leaf with a piece of masking tape. What happens?
- 31. Pay your child a compliment.

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