

Daily Learning Planner

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

**Catholic School Office
Archdiocese of Cincinnati**



**THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®**

December • January • February • 2009-2010

December 2009

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

- 1. Share a book about science with your child today.
- 2. Ask your child, "What's the bravest thing you have ever seen someone do?"
- 3. Show your child how to put new batteries in a flashlight.
- 4. Let your child help make dinner.
- 5. Put three items in a bag. Have your child and a friend use them as props for a five-minute skit.
- 6. Ask each person in your family to write an adjective or noun. Have your child put all the words in one sentence.
- 7. Play "Concentration" with homemade flash cards. Math problems with the same answer make a pair (9×2 and $15 + 3$, for example).
- 8. Ask your child to tell you a funny story.
- 9. Ask your child how she helped others today.
- 10. Enjoy some physical activity with your child.
- 11. Ask your child what he would do if his friends dared him to steal a candy bar.
- 12. Play guess that number. How many chips in the bag? How many cookies in the package?
- 13. Show your child which way is *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*.
- 14. Ask your child about her earliest memories as a child.
- 15. Look through a photo album with your child. Tell stories about the pictures you see.
- 16. Discuss your child's courage. List times when he tackled challenges, such as learning to ride a bike.
- 17. Ask your child to pick five words to describe herself.
- 18. Ask a librarian to recommend some award-winning books for your child.



- 19. Try eating with chopsticks tonight.
- 20. Have a tea party with your child. Sip tea and eat cookies.
- 21. Ask your child to write down the items you need before you go to the grocery store.
- 22. Count the days until a special event. Link that number of paper strips to make a chain. Remove one link each day.
- 23. Have your child make an indoor snowman using paper, glue and cotton balls.
- 24. At bedtime, ask your child to name the hardest and best parts of her day.
- 25. Begin telling a story, and when you get to an exciting part, stop talking and let your child make up the rest.
- 26. Read a book about community service with your child. Talk about the importance of helping others.
- 27. Leave a note tucked under your child's pillow for him to find at bedtime.
- 28. Find pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child to make up a story about each picture.
- 29. Ask your child to listen to music in the dark. Concentrate on the sounds.
- 30. Solve math problems with yummy treats. Use chocolate chips or gummy bears for adding and subtracting.
- 31. Measure your child. How much did she grow this year?

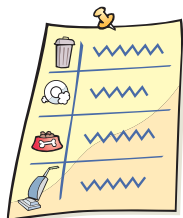
Helping Children Learn®
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

Elementary Edition

January 2010

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

- 1. Create and keep a family logbook. Everyone can jot down and read thoughts, reminders and accomplishments.
- 2. Ask your child to tell you his favorite joke.
- 3. Ask your child to spell the words on your grocery list.
- 4. Share a favorite quote with your child.
- 5. Give your child the responsibility of putting her clean clothes away.
- 6. Next time your kids argue, have them switch roles.
- 7. Play an age-appropriate board game with your child.
- 8. Ask your child to read you the review of a movie he would like to see.
- 9. Use a kitchen timer while your child completes a task. See if she can “beat the clock.”
- 10. Teach your child to wash his hands often—before every meal, after sneezing and after playing outside.
- 11. Ask your child, “Why do we have laws in our society?”
- 12. Ask your child to tell you her favorite time of year.
- 13. Make a chore chart with your child. List chores he’s responsible for and when they should be completed.
- 14. While in the car today, ask your child to add up the numbers on the license plate of the car ahead of yours at a stoplight.
- 15. Help your child find instructions at the library for making a volcano with vinegar and baking soda.
- 16. Research another culture and plan an evening to celebrate it.
- 17. Help your child set up dominos in a pattern and then have her knock them down.



- 18. Talk with your child about times when it’s important to say “no,” even to an adult.
- 19. Make an “emergency reading kit” for the car.
- 20. Get in your pajamas early tonight and have a pajama party with your child.
- 21. Have dinner by candlelight. Have family member share their favorite parts of their days.
- 22. Make a *rebus* with your child—a story that replaces some words with pictures.
- 23. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
- 24. Build a house out of cards with your child. Make it as stable as possible.
- 25. Use a paper plate and two strips of paper to make a practice clock. Help your child practice telling time.
- 26. With your child, use an almanac to find out about the phases of the moon. Compare it with what you see at night.
- 27. Give your child a cereal box or a soup can. Have him look for certain letters or words on them.
- 28. Help your child make flash cards of vocabulary words.
- 29. Ask your child to name her favorite thing about you.
- 30. Go to a travel agency with your child. Let him pick out travel brochures of places he’d like to visit.
- 31. Help your child set a goal for this week.

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February 2010

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

- 1. Ask your child, “What would you do with a million dollars?”
- 2. Have your child teach you something she’s learning.
- 3. Ask your child to alphabetize his books by the author’s last name.
- 4. Ask your child to create a comic strip of a story she knows.
- 5. Ask your child to read you an article while you make dinner.
- 6. With your child, read the same news story in two different publications. Compare the versions.
- 7. Create a board game with your child. Use poster board, coins for game pieces, magic markers, index cards and dice.
- 8. Do a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 9. Help your child plan ahead. Talk about next weekend. What needs to be done to prepare for a family activity?
- 10. Ask your child, “What is the one thing you are looking forward to right now?”
- 11. Set aside a half hour for writing with your child.
- 12. List 10 of your child’s successes this week. List 10 of your own. Look at the list whenever one of you is feeling down.
- 13. Watch for people who are laughing throughout your day.
- 14. Tell your child you love him today.
- 15. Let your child pick what to wear and where to study today.
- 16. Practice using the Internet together. Your local library may have computers available.
- 17. Find something small enough to fit in your pocket. Have your child write a story about it.
- 18. Ask your child to figure out how many miles your car goes on one gallon of gas.

- 19. Ask your child how he feels today. Talk about feelings.
- 20. Ask your child, “What is the difference between liking something and loving something?”
- 21. Talk with your child about what it means to be a good citizen.
- 22. Talk about how you use numbers at home—setting an alarm clock or the oven timer.
- 23. Let your child fill a paper bag with air. Have her hold it tightly closed and hit it hard to make a loud noise.
- 24. Look in the newspaper for interesting words. Help your child look them up in a dictionary.
- 25. Let your child clean some dirty pennies with catsup. Research together why this works.
- 26. Challenge your child to make music by strumming on stretched rubber bands.
- 27. Use time in the car to review homework, such as spelling words.
- 28. Make an “I Am Special” scrapbook with your child.



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