September 2018

1. Make a height chart for your child. Measure his height each month and point out how it changes.
2. Discuss a few weather changes that take place in the fall. (Days are cooler and shorter.)
3. Read a book to your child before each meal and before bedtime.
4. September is Library Card Month. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card.
5. Make a pattern by alternating apple and banana slices on a plate. Can your child tell what will come next?
6. Look through a calendar with your child and point out some special days, such as her birthday.
7. Together, practice counting to five in another language, such as French—un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq.
8. Plant a fall flower, such as a mum, with your child. Or plant bulbs that will come up in the spring.
9. Help your child put drops of food coloring into water to experiment with mixing colors.
10. Talk with your child about something she has done well today.
11. Help your child find different shapes around the house.
12. Talk about the difference between night and day. Have your child draw a night picture and a day picture.
13. Watch a children’s show with your child. Talk about the characters.
14. Look online or in the newspaper for county fairs or autumn festivals nearby. Plan to attend one with your child.
15. Help your child sort through his toys. Consider giving toys he no longer uses to another child, a day care center or a school.

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

16. Have a family photo taken. Give a copy to your child.
17. Look around your house for different textures. Can your child find something hard? Soft? Bumpy?
18. Tap out a simple rhythm with household instruments, such as spoons. See if your child can copy it.
19. Have your child practice following three-step directions. “Go to the coat hook. Take your jacket. Bring it to me.”
20. Gather some items that can get wet. Fill the sink with water and help your child test which items float and which sink.
21. Make up a song featuring your child’s name.
22. Set aside some time to spend one-on-one with your child today.
23. Bake a cake with your child and allow her to decorate it.
24. Line up chairs like a train. Ask your child to crawl under them, around them and on them.
25. Read the comics together. Talk about what’s in the pictures.
26. Teach your child to use a magnifying glass. Examine familiar objects.
27. Place spare materials—scraps of fabric, tissue paper and ribbons—in a box. Let your child use them to make a collage.
28. Ask your child to help set the table for dinner. Count out spoons, napkins or cups together.
29. Say a word and see if your child can think of words that rhyme with it.
30. Play a board game with your child.

Helping Children Learn
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
October 2018

1. Read with your child for at least 20 minutes today.
2. Ask your child to stand on one foot. Count how long he can balance. Now have him try the other foot.
3. Cut part of a photo out of a magazine or catalog. Paste it onto paper. Ask your child to use crayons to complete the picture.
4. Send your child a card or a letter through the mail. When it arrives, read it together.
5. Help your child learn about taste opposites. For sweet versus sour, use sugar and a lemon. For salty versus bland, use pretzels and cooked pasta.
6. Ask your child what she would do if she were invisible for a day.
7. Have fun with a classic fall activity. Bake leaves and jump into them!
8. Suggest that your child try a new self-care skill today—putting on his own shoes, for example.
9. Help your child create a “store” with toys and play money.
10. Point out patterns on wallpaper or clothes to your child. Recognizing patterns is a necessary skill for reading and math.
11. Talk with your child about things that make each season special.
12. Look at photos from a year ago. Your child will be amazed at how much she has grown!
13. Dip the wheels of a toy car in paint. Let your child “drive” it over paper to make a design.
14. Take a walk with your child and use all five senses to observe the world around you.
15. At the grocery store, ask your child to spot different foods.
16. Give your child play dough, a rolling pin and some cookie cutters. Let him cut out “cookies.”

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November 2018

1. Allow your child to use a tool, such as tweezers, with supervision.
2. Find a book that describes holidays around the world. Choose a new holiday to observe with your family, or invent one.
3. Make a “touch box.” Put items such as cotton balls, rocks and small toys into it. Can your child guess what she’s touching without looking?
4. Have a jump rope contest today. See how many jumps your child can do in a row.
5. Start a nature log. Have your child draw a picture of the same outdoor feature, such as a tree, every few months.
6. With your child, decorate a box and cut an opening in the top. Place notes for your child in it. Let him “mail” letters or drawings to you.
7. Tell your child a story about when she was a baby.
9. Challenge your child to draw blindfolded.
10. Collect canned goods for a shelter or food bank. Take your child with you as you deliver them.
11. Help your child learn his age and birthday.
12. Stretch a rope on the ground. Show your child how to jump over it from side to side.
13. Let your child decorate each finger of an old pair of gloves. Help her put on a finger puppet show.
14. Place a flat object, such as a penny, on a piece of paper. Have your child paint over it, then remove the object to see the design.
15. Look at a school bus. Ask your child, “How is it different from a car?”
16. Plan a No TV Night. Read or play games instead.

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17. Make plans for a special parent-child day.
18. Cut straws into different lengths. Ask your child to line them up from shortest to longest.
19. Ask your child to name three active things shelikes to do.
20. Collect leaves, bark and small sticks with your child. Help him make a tree picture by gluing them to paper.
21. Have your child try to draw with the hand she doesn’t usually use.
22. Use glue to write your child’s name on construction paper. Let him stick cereal or dry beans on the wet glue.
23. Let your child see you enjoying reading.
24. Put together a “kitchen band.” How many kitchen objects can your child use to make music?
25. Ask your child to name things found in the sky.
26. Talk to your child at her eye level. Sit, squat, kneel or lie on the floor.
27. Show your child how to use construction paper strips to make a chain.
28. Tell your child a riddle. “I love to bark and wag my tail. What am I?”
29. Practice sorting with a deck of cards. Have your child sort by color, shape or number.
30. Have a bedtime chat with your child after the light is out.
31. Help your child make an “I’m bored bag.” Fill it with items he can use when he’s bored, like a book and stickers and paper.

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