Daily Learning Planner
Ideas parents can use to help children do well in school

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

1. Point out all the ways your family uses writing throughout the day.
2. Have a “goodbye to summer” picnic today. Talk with your child about the great times you had together over the summer.
3. Provide your child with access to basic reference materials when she studies—an atlas, a dictionary, a thesaurus, in book form or online.
4. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Make sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
5. Choose a place for items that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each evening.
6. Write your child’s name vertically. Have him use each letter in his name to begin a line of a poem.
7. Use math to give your child instructions. For example, ask her to pick up 3 + 2 + 1 toys.
8. September is Library Card Month. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card.
9. Help your child set a school-related goal. Write down the steps he’ll take to reach it. Post his goal in a visible spot.
10. Each evening, ask your child specific questions about school that day.
11. Have your child use shoe boxes to create a mailbox for each family member. Use them to send one another notes and reminders.
12. Watch the news as a family. Locate one place mentioned on a map.
13. Make sure you and your child know the school rules. Post them on your refrigerator.
14. Adjust bedtimes tonight so everyone has time to read in bed.
15. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.

16. Talk with your child about the week ahead. Do this every Sunday.
17. If your child is watching TV, ask her to turn off the sound and create her own story to go with the images.
18. Review your child’s homework each day. Give compliments and helpful suggestions, but don’t insist that he redo the work.
19. Make an emergency reading kit for your child to have in the car.
20. Look through job listings with your child. What job would she want?
21. Plan a family meeting to discuss a decision you can make together.
22. Have your child write a letter or email to a friend or relative telling about the beginning of his school year.
23. Challenge your child to find as many types of punctuation as she can.
24. Help your child find his best time to do homework. Some kids do better right after school, others after dinner.
25. Take an imaginary underwater trip with your child. What would your vessel look like? Where would you go?
26. Give family members marshmallows and toothpicks. See who can build the tallest tower.
27. Help your child organize her room.
28. Give your child a hug today and every day.
29. Tonight, allow a few minutes after the light is off for a quiet chat with your child.
30. Have dinner by candlelight tonight.

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

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1. Review your list of emergency contacts with your child.
2. Have a family Geography Challenge. Name a state, province or country. Who can call out the capital first?
3. Have your child estimate the number of socks in his drawer, then count to find out the exact number.
4. Choose a Word of the Day. Have family members use it in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
5. Talk about books you loved when you were your child’s age.
6. Together, find out what’s inside a seed. Soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coat and pull the halves apart.
7. At dinner, put a price on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the cost of the meal.
8. Today is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Review your family plan in case of a fire in your home.
9. Let your child quiz you about things she is learning in school.
10. See how many words you and your child can make from the letters in OCTOBER.
11. Compliment your child’s efforts on something today.
12. Cut out pictures of people from the newspaper or magazines. Ask your child to make up a story about each person.
13. Think of a skill you and your child would like to learn, such as knitting. Check out a how-to book to read together.
14. Make a leaf rubbing. Place a leaf on paper. Cover it with a sheet of thin paper and have your child rub over the leaf with a crayon.
15. Have your child turn a news article headline into a question. Then, read the article together. Does it answer the question?

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16. Read a book that you and your child can both enjoy.
17. Write an encouraging note and tuck it into your child’s backpack.
18. Challenge family members. Who can name the most parts of the body?
19. Bake cookies with your child. Help her figure out how much of each ingredient you would need if you doubled the recipe.
20. Spend some one-on-one time with your child today.
21. Ask your child to name his favorite thing about you. Tell him something you love about him.
22. Encourage your child to be a humble winner and a gracious loser.
23. Limit TV time. Use the TV listings to help your child plan her viewing.
24. Have your child rub two stones together for a few minutes. Can he feel the heat generated? This is caused by friction.
25. To help an early reader, look for books with read-along audiobooks.
26. Ask your child to plan a meal. How many food groups can she include?
27. Let your child see you enjoying reading today.
28. With your child, learn to say hello in two other languages.
29. Sing a familiar song and leave out some words. Can your child tell you which words you left out?
30. Play Concentration with fractions. Fractions with the same value make a pair, like 1/2 and 2/4.
31. With your child, make a fall table decoration.

November 2018

1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
2. Find a book or website that describes holidays around the world. Choose a new holiday for your family to observe, or invent one.
3. Let your child pick a color and try to spot it everywhere he goes today.
4. Resist the urge to schedule all of your child’s time. Kids need downtime to think, imagine and play.
5. Watch a TV show with your child. Talk about decisions the characters made. What would your child have done?
6. Talk with your child about mistakes. Tell her that learning from mistakes makes people smarter.
7. With your child, learn more about an interesting news story.
8. Have a music-sharing night. Share your favorite music with each other. Talk about how it makes you feel.
9. Ask family members to write down two positive things about each member of the family. Read your lists aloud at dinner.
10. Help your child make her own dictionary with her spelling or vocabulary words.
11. Ask your child to write directions for making a sandwich. Then, follow them exactly.
12. Have your child look at a group of various objects on a tray. Then, have him close his eyes and name as many as he can remember.
13. Challenge your child to invent something that will make life easier.
14. At dinner, discuss the best and the worst parts of everyone’s day. Give each family member a turn to share.
15. Show your child how to take her pulse. Have her jump up and down 15 times and take it again. Has it changed?

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16. Talk to your child about ways to resist peer pressure to cheat.
17. Have everyone pitch in for a half-hour “blitz” of house cleaning. It teaches children responsibility.
18. Suggest that your child write a story from an unusual point of view, such as a birthday party from a present’s point of view.
19. Ask your child to name his favorite sport. What does he like about it?
20. Make a special effort to reinforce manners today. Remind family members to say please, thank you and excuse me.
21. Talk with your child about a book she likes.
22. Make a list of all the things that make your family thankful.
23. Have your child read to you as you’re cleaning up after dinner. Or read to your child as he cleans up!
24. At the grocery store, have your child compare two sizes of the same product. Which is the best buy?
25. Ask your child to name places where water is found.
26. Create a word search by hiding words in a grid and surrounding them with random letters. Let your child find the words.
27. Tell your child some family stories as you show her family pictures.
28. Ask your child which famous historical person he’d like to be. Why?
29. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone.
30. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make it today.

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