

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

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Berea Early Childhood RTC



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September 2022

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

- 1. Draw pictures with your child of a special day you spent together over the summer.
- 2. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, let your child "read" to you.
- 3. Put on some lively music and get moving with your child!
- 4. Together, collect leaves, bark, and twigs. Then help your child make a tree collage by gluing the items on paper.
- 5. Put three spoons on a table. Ask your child to give you "just one." If this is easy, ask for "just two."
- 6. Read short news article to your child today.
- 7. Practice hopping, skipping and jumping together.
- 8. Look through a calendar with your child and point out special days, such as family members' birthdays.
- 9. Cut an apple in half crosswise. What shape can your child see? (A star.) Then share the apple.
- 10. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what's in the picture?
- 11. Pretend you and your child have a magic carpet. Where would you fly? What would you see?
- 12. Have a Word of the Day. Challenge family members to use the word in a sentence. Make this a daily habit.
- 13. Mix dry beans and dry pasta in a bowl. Ask your child to sort them.
- 14. Talk with your child about *honesty* and why it is so important. Point to examples of people who demonstrate honesty.
- 15. Talk about the words *fall* and *autumn*. Make sure your child knows they are the same season.
- 16. Say to your child, "Close your eyes and listen." Then make a sound, such as jingling keys. Can your child guess what you are doing?
- 17. Ask your child to find five *hard* things and five *soft* things.
- 18. With your child, take turns drawing blindfolded while the other person gives directions.
- 19. Children like to wear things they've made. Together, try decorating a plain T-shirt with fabric paint.
- 20. Ask your child, "What is something you would like to make into a family tradition?" Consider starting it.
- 21. Help your child create a card to send to a loved one.
- 22. Point out patterns on fabric to your child. Recognizing patterns is a necessary skill for reading and math.
- 23. Teach your child a new shape. If circles, squares and triangles are familiar, try an *octagon*. A stop sign is an example of an octagon.
- 24. Help your child look up facts about a favorite animal online or in nonfiction books.
- 25. Plan a visit to a local museum or park. Write it on your calendar.
- 26. Trace your child's hand on paper. Then, help brainstorm ways to be a helping hand. Write your child's ideas on the drawing.
- 27. Talk together about all the things people can see in the sky. What can your child name?
- 28. Cut straws into different lengths. Encourage your child to line them up from *shortest* to *longest*.
- 29. Set a goal to read at least three short books together today.
- 30. Ask your child to follow three-step directions, such as, "Go inside, take off your shoes and put them in the closet."

October 2022

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- 1. Play musical chairs as a family. This game teaches listening and thinking skills.
- 2. Look in the mirror with your child. Ask, "What color are your eyes? Your hair? How many hands do you have?"
- 3. Have a Backwards Day. Walk backwards. Eat breakfast food for dinner.
- 4. Go on a color hunt. Make a list of colors with your child. Try to find one item of each color in your home.
- 5. Read to your child today from a book of poems.
- 6. Ask your child to give you words that rhyme with words you say: *flap (clap), jump (bump), sat (bat)*.
- 7. Play a problem-solving game. The phone is ringing. Ask your child to think of different ways to make the noise stop.
- 8. Involve your child in a job you have been meaning to do, such as organizing toys.
- 9. Fire Prevention Week starts today. Practice your home fire escape plan.
- 10. Have a pretend phone call with your child. Talk about what you did together *yesterday* and what your child wants to do *tomorrow*.
- 11. Make up a song that features your child's name. Sing it often.
- 12. Get out a ruler or measuring tape. Help your child measure the dimensions of objects in your house. Which is *widest? Tallest?*
- 13. Look together at a picture of your child from last year at this time. Talk about all the ways your child is much more grown up now.
- 14. Encourage creative thinking with unusual questions. Ask your child, "What if your hair were made of spaghetti?"
- 15. Ask your child to pretend to be a favorite character from a book. Try to figure out who it is.
- 16. Share something of yours with your child today. It's the best way to teach your child to share with others!
- 17. Ask your child to make a *mad* face, a *happy* face and a *sad* face.
- 18. Watch or read the weather forecast with your child today. Locate the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- 19. Put six items on a tray. Let your child look for 30 seconds, then remove the tray. How many items can your child name from memory?
- 20. Model good table manners for your child. Say "*Please* pass the ...," and "*Thank you* very much."
- 21. Ask your child to help with the laundry. Matching clean socks is a great job for preschoolers.
- 22. Make a paper crown and let your child play Ruler for a day. What laws would your child make?
- 23. Count things with your child: stairs as you climb, cars as they pass.
- 24. Hug your child, for no reason other than to show your love.
- 25. *Crisp* is a word that's often heard in the fall. Talk about what it means.
- 26. Talk together about something your child has done well today.
- 27. Glue a picture from a magazine to cardboard. Cut it into four to six pieces. Can your child reassemble the puzzle?
- 28. Ask your child, "What would you do if you were invisible for a day?"
- 29. Point out a tree. Ask your child to point out things that are *bigger* or *smaller*.
- 30. Cut a pumpkin and a pumpkin nose out of paper. Together, play "Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin."
- 31. Have an "orange day." Wear orange clothes, drink orange juice, eat pumpkin cookies!

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November 2022

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

- 1. Help your child find appropriate ways to deal with anger. It's OK to punch a pillow, but never a person.
- 2. Have your child string some dry macaroni to make a necklace. Together, count each piece as your child strings it.
- 3. Let your child see you try a food that is new or different. Talk about it.
- 4. Teach your child a new self-care skill today—buttoning a shirt, for example.
- 5. Give your child a folder to save special photos and letters in. This teaches children to care for important things.
- 6. Fill a "touch box" with small items—a marshmallow, a cotton ball, a pebble, etc. Without looking, can your child guess the objects by feel?
- 7. When your child asks you to play today, respond with "I'd love to!"
- 8. Have your child draw a picture of something that happened today. Then talk about it.
- 9. Offer choices today. Let your child choose between two shirts to wear or two foods to eat for lunch.
- 10. Dim the lights and slowly move the beam of a flashlight across the floor. Ask your child to jump over the beam or step on it.
- 11. See how long your child can keep a balloon aloft by batting it. This teaches eye-hand-coordination.
- 12. With your child, read about holidays around the world. Choose a new holiday to observe as a family, or invent one.
- 13. Glue photos of family members on paper. Ask your child to name them.
- 14. Encourage your child to try two motor tasks at the same time—for example, clapping hands while walking.
- 15. Read a favorite book today as many times as your child wants.
- 16. Talk to your child about the Golden Rule—Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- 17. Tell the story of the day your child was born or came home for the first time. Children love to hear this!
- 18. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for a quiet conversation with your child.
- 19. Have your child use play dough or clay to form animals or people.
- 20. After a bath, let your child make wet footprints on colored construction paper. What do they look like?
- 21. The nights are getting longer. Ask your child to draw a picture of a sunny day. Hang it in your kitchen.
- 22. Tell your child that people learn when they try new things. Today, try a doing something a new way.
- 23. Discuss what it means to be a *hero*. Family members can be heroes, too.
- 24. Talk as a family about things you are thankful for. Put your child at the top of your list.
- 25. What is your child's favorite vegetable? Talk about different ways to prepare it. Cook it together.
- 26. Teach your child about uppercase and lowercase letters. Show how each letter can be written differently.
- 27. Talk about where animals live. Which animals would your child expect to see in the jungle? How about in the woods?
- 28. Teach your child a new game today.
- 29. With your child, draw and cut out pictures of different types of transportation.
- 30. Review safety rules for car or bus trips with your child.

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