

Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school*

This Newsletter Provided By
Berea Early Childhood RTC



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August 2022

June 2022

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

- 1. Change chairs at mealtime. Have everyone pretend to be the person who usually sits in that chair.
- 2. When your child asks a question you can't answer, write it down. Keep a list of questions to look up later.
- 3. As you read together, ask your child to point to a letter or word each time he sees it.
- 4. Turn chores into a game. Assign each chore a number and have your child roll a die to see which chore she gets.
- 5. Talk with your child about the *best* and *worst* parts of your days.
- 6. Play with puppets. Have the puppet ask your child his name, age, and other facts he should know.
- 7. Teach a song to your child today.
- 8. Together, collect items from nature such as leaves and grass. Brush glue on paper. Let your child arrange the items to make a "forest."
- 9. Help your child feel capable. Say, "Look what you did all by yourself. You are really growing up!"
- 10. Join your child for some pretend play today. If she wants to be the doctor, you pretend to be the patient.
- 11. At the library, look for a book about friendship to read with your child.
- 12. Give your child two items, such as a spoon and a fork. Ask him to tell you how they are different and how they are the same.
- 13. Let your child decorate a rock with paint. Use it as a bookend.
- 14. Make a traffic light together. Have your child color one paper plate red, one yellow and one green. Glue them to a cardboard paper towel tube.
- 15. Encourage your child to think and imagine. Ask, "What would happen if it rained chocolate chips?"
- 16. Transportation is getting from place to place. Talk with your child about the many ways to do this. Walking, riding in a car, etc.
- 17. "Catch" your child behaving well.
- 18. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 19. Look at a calendar with your child. What month is it? Are there any holidays this month? What about next month?
- 20. Wrap masking tape sticky-side out around your child's fingers. Let her use her "sticky hand" to pick up small, light objects.
- 21. Have your child make a textured drawing by coloring on a piece of paper with sandpaper or lace underneath.
- 22. Imitate an animal and ask your child to guess what you are pretending to be. Give hints if necessary.
- 23. Add number talk to each day. Say "Let's read these *three* books," rather than "Let's read some books."
- 24. Ask your child questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer: "What was your favorite part of the story?"
- 25. Plan an outdoor picnic. Let your child help with the food.
- 26. Make a habit of using Sunday nights as a time to talk with your child about the week ahead.
- 27. Ask your child's opinion about something that affects him. "Should we have salad or green beans for dinner?"
- 28. Does your child need some new books to read? Try organizing a book swap in your neighborhood.
- 29. Let your child take care of something living, such as a pet or a plant.
- 30. Make up trivia questions about your family. Quiz one another.

July 2022

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

- 1. Take a walk with your child today and try to step on each other's shadows.
- 2. Play a game with your child today. It can be an active outdoor game or a quiet board game.
- 3. Help your child use cookie or bread dough to form letters and numbers. Bake and serve!
- 4. Talk about the word *independence* with your child. What does it mean?
- 5. Cut an apple in half and remove all the seeds. Count them with your child. Then share the apple.
- 6. Make an "I'm Bored" box for your child. Fill it with craft activities and books to look at.
- 7. When your child makes a mistake, say, "We all make mistakes. How can we fix it?"
- 8. Help your child make musical instruments from things around your house. Have a concert.
- 9. Ask your child to trace her foot onto a piece of paper. Trace your foot next to hers and compare the difference in size.
- 10. Have your child look at his reflection on the back of a spoon. How does it make him appear?
- 11. Take your child on a tour of your neighborhood. Notice houses, businesses and signs.
- 12. Brainstorm with your child. "How many different colors can we name?"
- 13. Take turns telling a story. Say, "There once was a family who lived" Have your child fill in the blank.
- 14. Help your child measure something with a ruler. Count the inches together.
- 15. Stretch different colored balloons over flashlights to create colored light. What happens when your child mixes the colors?
- 16. Have a 20-minute D.E.A.R. time (Drop Everything And Read).
- 17. Ask your child to draw a picture of a favorite toy.
- 18. Have your child use safety scissors to practice cutting straight and curved lines.
- 19. Use a calendar to teach your child about time. Show her *next week*, *next month*, etc.
- 20. Expect your child to pick up toys after playtime.
- 21. Fill a box with old clothes and items your child can use for pretend play.
- 22. Play catch with your child. Stand close and toss a light ball back and forth.
- 23. Help your child do something nice for someone.
- 24. Give your child a chance to blow off steam after completing a challenging task.
- 25. Explain *why* the behaviors you want from your child are valuable.
- 26. Can your child think of a different ending to a favorite story? What would he do if he met the characters?
- 27. Be patient when you listen to your child. It can take time for young children to put thoughts into words.
- 28. Have your child close her eyes and try to identify foods by their smells.
- 29. Discuss kindness. What does it look like? Sound like? Feel like?
- 30. Stretch out on a blanket outside and read with your child.
- 31. Encourage your child to ask you questions. The more he asks, the more he thinks and learns.

Copyright © 2022 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525

August 2022

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

- 1. Give your child a bucket of water and a paint brush to use to "paint" letters on the sidewalk.
- 2. Ask your child questions about daily life. "Where do we hang up clothes? Where do we keep the food?"
- 3. Have family members take turns saying at least two things they each like about themselves and why.
- 4. Play the Last Word game. Say, "A fire is hot, but ice is ____." Have your child fill in the last word.
- 5. Balance each critical thing you say to your child with 10 positive things.
- 6. Listen to an audiobook with your child. Many public libraries have children's books you can download for free.
- 7. Help your child turn a large cardboard box into a pretend car.
- 8. Ask your child to name each of the five senses and what people use them for.
- 9. Hide something and clap to help your child find it. As she gets closer to the object, clap faster.
- 10. Eat outside tonight! Let your child choose at least one menu item.
- 11. Help your child practice sorting with a deck of cards. Sort by color, suit or number.
- 12. Have a family reading night. Get cozy and read books aloud.
- 13. Ask how many different ways your child can move his arms and legs.
- 14. Have your child complete the sentence: "If I had a wish, it would be"
- 15. Ask your child to draw a picture of the activity she liked best today.
- 16. Model the many reasons to read for your child: for information, for fun, to pass time while waiting, etc.
- 17. Ask for your child's help with a chore. After you work, have a cool drink.
- 18. Talk about right and wrong ways to express anger. Right: saying, "I'm angry." Wrong: hitting someone.
- 19. Let your child draw on white paper with a white candle. The picture will magically appear when your child paints over it.
- 20. Make bubble solution with 1/8 cup of dishwashing liquid and one cup water. Use a slotted spoon to blow bubbles!
- 21. Have your child guess how far each of you can throw a ball. Help him measure to see if he was right.
- 22. Start a positive habit for school. Help your child choose and lay out clothes for the next day in the evening.
- 23. Bowl with your child using empty paper towel tubes as bowling pins.
- 24. Help your child make a summer scrapbook. Staple paper together. Let your child paste in photos, drawings, etc.
- 25. Show your child a detailed picture. Ask her to tell you what she sees.
- 26. Find a kid-friendly recipe. Help your child make that dish today.
- 27. Help your child find the letters of his name in newspaper headlines.
- 28. Have your child put an ice cube outside in the sun. What happens after five minutes? After 10?
- 29. Tell your child that you love spending time together.
- 30. When you are setting the table, add something that shouldn't be there. Ask your child what doesn't belong.
- 31. Talk with your child about things to expect as summer changes to fall: cooler weather, autumn colors, etc.

Copyright © 2022 The Parent Institute®, a division of PaperClip Media, Inc. • May be reproduced only as licensed by *Parents make the difference!*® and *Helping Children Learn*® newsletters • 1-800-756-5525