

# 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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## March 2024

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

- 1. Go on a walk with your child. Count the birds, dogs or cats you see.
- 2. Have your preschooler decorate a paper plate. Cut holes for your child's eyes and mouth to create a mask.
- 3. Draw faces on your fingers and act out stories with your child.
- 4. Talk about animals your child might see in a zoo. What do they eat? Where do they sleep? Are they dangerous?
- 5. "Catch" your child behaving well.
- 6. Discuss the meaning of *today*, *yesterday* and *tomorrow* with your child.
- 7. Take a tour of your neighborhood together. Point out the landmarks and how they relate to your home's location.
- 8. With your child, estimate how many bowls of cereal you can pour from one box. Keep track until the box is empty.
- 9. Together, look for people who are laughing today.
- 10. Decorate a shoebox to make a treasure chest. Fill it with small treats. Hide it and have a treasure hunt.
- 11. Play a board game as a family this evening.
- 12. Help your child make a get-well card for a friend or relative who is feeling under the weather.
- 13. Go on a triangle hunt together. How many can your child find?
- 14. Give your preschooler a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.
- 15. Cut animal ears out of cardboard. Attach them to a paper strip that fits around your child's head. Have your child pretend to be the animal.
- 16. Take your child to observe a construction site from a safe distance. Talk about what the workers are doing and the machines they use.
- 17. Plan a week of alphabet dinners—serve foods that start with the same letter. Choose a different letter each day.
- 18. Speak in a voice that helps your child listen. Don't speak too fast or too loud.
- 19. Help your child practice buttoning a shirt or zipping a zipper.
- 20. Place a sheet of paper in a box. Have your child dip a marble in paint, drop it in the box and roll it around.
- 21. Cut the shape of a bird out of cardboard. Let your child glue paper feathers on it.
- 22. Take your child to the library. Check out a book about sea life.
- 23. Help your child form numbers out of cold, cooked spaghetti.
- 24. Don't make everything look easy. Show your child that you, too, must stick with challenging tasks and keep trying.
- 25. Cut large letters out of paper. Help your child match them to household items that begin with the sound each letter makes.
- 26. Let your child decorate a paper lunch bag using crayons. Attach a long string to the bottom of the bag to make a kite.
- 27. Go outside with your child and watch as the wind moves through the trees and bushes. What sound does the wind make?
- 28. Give your child an empty plastic bucket and a wooden spoon. Play some music, and have your child to tap the beat on the "drum."
- 29. Go on a grocery store scavenger hunt. Ask your child to find a fruit, something frozen and a very large item.
- 30. Ask your child, "When was a time when you felt lucky?"
- 31. Help your child learn to follow basic safety rules, such as "Stop and listen when your name is called."

# April 2024

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

- 1. Ask your child to help you sort clean socks into pairs.
- 2. Make a letter tree. Hang new letters from the tree as your child learns them.
- 3. Draw a stick-figure person. Leave off a body part. Can your child guess what's missing?
- 4. Read an age-appropriate joke book with your child today.
- 5. Praise your child for showing effort: "Look how hard you worked on that—it really shows!"
- 6. Use a mirror to show how your child's mouth, tongue and lips move in different ways to make various letter sounds.
- 7. Teach your child to say, "I'm glad to meet you" when introduced to a new person.
- 8. Ask your child "What if" questions to spark creative thinking: "What if your hair were made of noodles?"
- 9. Practice walking sideways today with your child.
- 10. Explain that people learn when they try new things. Set the tone: "This game looks fun. Let's try it!"
- 11. Go "bowling" with your child. Set up cardboard toilet paper tubes in a hallway and use a ball to knock them down.
- 12. Share something of yours with your child today. It's the best way to teach your child to share with others.
- 13. Have a spring clean-up day. Choose a room and have your child help you clean it.
- 14. Offer your child safe new challenges, such as pouring milk on cereal.
- 15. Strengthen small motor skills by having your child peel stickers and stick them to a sheet of paper.

- 16. Read a story to your child. Later, ask your preschooler to retell it to you from memory.
- 17. Paste part of a photo onto paper. Ask your child to use crayons to complete the picture.
- 18. Gather some small items. Using a baking sheet as a ramp, ask your child to predict which items will roll and which will slide down it.
- 19. Set a timer for one minute to give your child a sense of how long that is.
- 20. Teach your preschooler how to do a sit-up. See how many your child can do in one minute.
- 21. Talk with your child about playground safety rules, such as taking turns on the slide.
- 22. Draw a dot-to-dot outline of a picture. Number the dots and have your child connect them.
- 23. Talk about the parts of plants. Point out *leaves*, *stems* and *roots*.
- 24. Help your child make a collage from odds and ends around the house—ribbons, string, buttons, etc.
- 25. Sing your child's favorite song together.
- 26. When you are on the road, have your child call out numbers that are on the license plates of cars around you.
- 27. Reward preschool successes with an occasional treat, but don't promise one in advance.
- 28. Together, look up facts about a favorite animal online or in a book.
- 29. Ask your child, "What would happen if your favorite animal lived in your room?"
- 30. Write each letter of your preschooler's name on a separate index card. Can your child put them in the right order?

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# May 2024

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

- 1. Draw a hopscotch pattern on the sidewalk with chalk. Show your child how to hop through the pattern.
- 2. Help your child make unusual prints by dipping flowers or other natural objects into paint and then pressing them onto paper.
- 3. Ask your child how the sun helps us. (Feeds plants, keeps us warm.) Can it hurt us? (Causes sunburn.)
- 4. Ask your child to classify things. For example, say, "A fan can cool you down when you're hot. What other things can cool you down?"
- 5. Go "fishing" with your child. Cut fish out of construction paper. Attach paper clips to them. Make a fishing rod from a stick, string and magnet.
- 6. Help your preschooler notice how good it feels to be asked politely, treated nicely and thanked. Say that others feel the same way.
- 7. Let your child try to fit a key into a lock. Talk about things that require keys, such as doors, cars and some boxes.
- 8. Help your child think of an imaginary land. Together, name it and make up a story about it.
- 9. Give your child a variety of items to arrange according to size.
- 10. Encourage your child to bounce a large ball and try to catch it.
- 11. Before bed tonight, read a story or poem about the stars together.
- 12. Offer praise immediately after your preschooler does something right. Reinforce it by giving your child a gentle hug or a thumbs-up.
- 13. Bake a cake together. Help your child measure and mix ingredients.
- 14. Go on a color shopping trip. Make a list of colors with your child. At the grocery store, try to find one item of each color.
- 15. Ask your child questions about preschool that can't be answered with *yes* or *no*. "What did you do outside today?"

- 16. Together, learn something new about a person your child admires.
- 17. Put objects starting with the letter P into a bag—penny, paper clip, pen. Let your child reach in and guess what each is without looking.
- 18. Garden together today. Pull weeds, spread mulch, plant flowers outside. Or pot plants indoors.
- 19. Ask your child to draw a picture of an imaginary garden.
- 20. Follow up activities with related reading. If you and your child ride a bus, read a book together about buses or transportation.
- 21. How many words can your child name that rhyme with *bat*?
- 22. Talk about things in your child's environment. Does your preschooler know all the names of frequently seen items in your home?
- 23. Encourage your child to try two motor tasks at the same time—for example, clapping hands while walking.
- 24. Go outside and blow bubbles. See if your child can catch one without breaking it.
- 25. When your child asks you to play, read or do a puzzle together, say, "I'd love to!"
- 26. Have a picnic today, either inside or outside.
- 27. Teach your child how to say *thank you* in several different languages.
- 28. Talk about inside and outside voices. Inside voices are quiet. Outside voices are louder.
- 29. Write a letter together to a loved one. Have your child draw pictures.
- 30. When you read to yourself, say, "I'm learning a lot by reading. Why don't you read, too?" Then give your child a picture book.
- 31. Say a simple word, such as "ball." See if your child can name another word that begins with the same sound. What letter makes that sound?

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