Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children do well in school

Cumberland County Schools



THE PARENT INSTITUTE®

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

1. Glue a picture of your elementary schooler to a piece of paper. Have your child draw things that represent personal strengths around the picture.
2. Declare today Compliment Others Day. At dinner, have everyone talk about the compliments they paid to friends, classmates, colleagues, etc.
3. Teach your child how to disagree respectfully—by speaking privately and politely, asking questions rather than accusing, etc.
4. Share the responsibility for holiday preparations. When kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.
5. Let your child invite a school friend over.
6. Talk with your child about *courage*. Look for examples of people who demonstrate courage.
7. Allow a few minutes after lights are out for a quiet chat with your child.
8. Help your child make a paper chain to count down the number of days left until January 1. Tear off one link per day.
9. Review math vocabulary words with your child, such as *sum*, *difference*, *product* and *quotient*.
10. Today is Human Rights Day. Talk with your child about rights and responsibilities.
11. Create a family logbook. Encourage everyone to jot down each day's thoughts, reminders and accomplishments.
12. Visit the library with your child. Check out a book about holiday traditions around the world.
13. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Pick a period in time and reenact an event together.
14. Does your child know who to call in an emergency? Make a list for your refrigerator. Practice what to say.
15. Ask your child "what if" questions. "What if it never rained?"
16. Have your child label four columns on a sheet of paper Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, and then write descriptive words for each season.
17. Read a favorite fairy tale to your child.
18. Have your child make a list of fun screen-free things to do when there's nothing to do.
19. Ask your child to help you organize something, such as a junk drawer.
20. At dinner tonight, have everyone talk about gifts they would like to receive that don't cost money.
21. Try blowing bubbles with your child in freezing weather. How does the cold affect them? Look for ice forming on the bubbles.
22. Arrange for your child to talk with a student who is home from college this month about what college life is like.
23. Play a board game as a family this evening.
24. When you're in the car, have your child estimate how far it is to your destination. Use the odometer to check.
25. Give your child a gift certificate good for one special activity with you.
26. Check online to see if there's a rink where you and your child can go roller skating or ice skating.
27. Help your child think of something nice to do for a neighbor or friend.
28. Find out what's inside a seed. Have your child soak a dry bean overnight, remove the coat and pull the halves apart.
29. Ask your child, "What is your favorite book? Why?"
30. Have a contest. Who can name the most parts of the body?
31. Help your child make a list of 10 things learned in 2026.

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